Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-91-091 *10 May 1991*

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Mercosur Congressmen Meet To Discuss Procedures

PY0805004591 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 May 91 p 10

[Text] The first congressional meeting of the Foreign Relations Committees of the Chambers of Deputies of the member countries of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] opened officially this morning with the participation of some 30 congressmen from Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. The objective of the meeting is to discuss the legislative procedures that must coincide with the implementation of the Treaty of Asuncion, the document that marks the foundation of the regional common market.

Jose Antonio Moreno Ruffinelli, the president of our Chamber of Deputies, delivered the opening address, followed by the presidents of the foreign delegations. They agreed to highlight the importance of the meeting and the undertaking of Mercosur. The speakers lauded the role that the political forces and the congresses will have to play in this integration process.

One of the objectives of the meeting, which will end tomorrow, is the creation of a Joint Congressional Committee of Mercosur. This committee will pave the way toward the definitive structure of the common market.

The meeting is taking place at the Central Bank building. Aspects of national legislation that must be adapted to the spirit and letter of the treaty will also be discussed, and the customs laws of the four countries are of considerable importance.

Finally, several of the binational or multinational agreements must be studied with an eye to modifying them in the future. Among these agreements is the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association], among other binational treaties on trade and tariff systems.

The meeting will reconvene this afternoon at 1600.

Bush Plan Criticized

PY1005114091 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 9 May 91 p 9

[Text] The first meeting of congressmen from the countries that make up the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] concluded in Asuncion yesterday. They decided to create subcommittees comprising members of the foreign relations commissions of Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. Paraguayan Deputy Antonio Salum Flecha closed the meeting with a speech during which he criticized the Bush Plan which proposes the creation of an American common market.

The congressmen took a categorical stand on the Asuncion Treaty: The Mercosur can exist only if democracy is a way of life in the member countries.

They also formally committed themselves to work for the approval of the Asuncion Treaty in their respective countries. The legislators agreed that "the efficient use of natural resources implies an inevitable review of specific treaties, making them compatible with the objectives ofe Mercosur." The legislators consider it essential to coordinate all bilateral or multilateral treaties and international agreements that were separately signed by country members. They also consider it important to study ways to coordinate and harmonize the national laws of the four countries.

Deputy Antonio Salum Flecha, president of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Commission, criticized the Bush Plan. He said: "The initiative is a positive step by the U.S. administration within its viewpoint of its relations with Latin America, but the plan must also contemplate, among other things, a relative reciprocity on items to be negotiated and on the application of the results."

"The offer involving the debt and investments, for instance, is way below Latin American and Caribbean needs. The offer is also strongly conditioned, which merely contributes to stress the importance of trade," Flecha said.

C.A. Agricultural Summit Postponed Indefinitely

PA1005044991 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Ministry sources confirmed this afternoon that the first Agricultural and Livestock Summit Meeting of Panama and Central America, which was to take place in our country, has been postponed indefinitely.

The summit meeting was scheduled 26-27 April. It was canceled because of the 22 April earthquake.

Another date proposed for the meeting had to be scrapped because it was not convenient for several Central American chiefs of state.

Because of this, according to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, it was decided to postpone the summit indefinitely.

Cuba

CPSU Secretariat Official Begins Visit

FL0905123291 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Ivan Melnikov, a member of the Secretariat of the CPSU, has arrived in Havana. Melnikov will report on the plenary session of the CPSU, which was held in April. He will be briefed about the preparations for the congress of the Communist Party of Cuba and will exchange views with important figures and young people in our country. Central Committee Secretary Carlos Aldana met him at the airport.

Soviet Military Specialists Receive Decorations

FL0905175891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] A group of Soviet military specialists received decorations today at the mausoleum of the Soviet internationalist soldier. The Internationalist Combatant Medal, second class, and the Ernesto Che Guevara Order, second rank, were given to a group of Soviet military specialists on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the Soviet people over fascism. At the event, a floral wreath was also laid before the mausoleum of the Soviet internationalist soldier.

In speaking, Lieutenant General (Gennadiy Shukarov) thanked the Cuban Government and people for this gesture since, he said, this is a country that upholds and defends the principles of the socialist system. Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and chief of the General Staff; Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov; (Ivan Melbikov), secretary general of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee [title as heard]; and Soviet military attaches and specialists attended the ceremony.

Raul Castro Sends Message to Baseball Team

FL0905222591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, has sent a congratulatory message to the people of Pinar del Rio Province and their baseball team for their victory in the Selectiva league. The letter from the Revolutionary Armed Forces minister was made public by Fidel Ramos, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Pinar del Rio Province, during a get-together with the members of the team.

Fidel Ramos noted that the team's extraordinary feat is not only a triumph for the region but for Cuban baseball. He asked the players to keep up their discipline and remain organized to conquer new victories in future sports challenges. Fidel Ramos, who is also a member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, expressed how proud he was of the team because it is another triumph to add to the successes of the people of the province such as the sugar harvest, the food program, and water works projects.

Unemployed Youths Join Agricultural Activities

FL1005004091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Over 500 young people who were not working or studying have joined the livestock-agricultural production and credits and services cooperatives in Sancti Spiritus Province in the last three years. This resulted from the social prevention work of the National Association of Small Farmers in cooperation with the Interior Ministry and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

ALIDE Secretary Views Investment Proposals

FL0905150491 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 May 91

[Interview with Carlos Garatea, secretary general of the Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development, ALIDE, by Jose Arteaga in Havana on the "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] [Arteaga] We are here with Carlos Garatea, secretary general of the ALIDE, which is meeting in Havana. Good evening, Mr. Garatea. Could you tell us about your impression of the meeting you had with the president of our country, Fidel Castro?

[Garatea] It was an extremely important meeting. I believe it was very fruitful for all the members of this 21st meeting of the ALIDE General Assembly here in Havana, because it permitted us to become familiar with a general but also very specific view of all the progress the Cuban revolution has been making throughout these years. He [Castro] explained in detail the limitations encountered in specific areas, how the country and the people have been developing strategies, and the achievements obtained so far. We all were quite surprised by the progress that has been made in Cuba. This information deserves much wider dissemination in the rest of the Latin American countries, so that we can make contacts for mutual benefit in the economic area and in this case provide a truer image of Cuban reality in our countries. This reality is usually distorted by misinformation. I believe that this was the most valuable part of this meeting, besides the admiration that Commander Fidel Castro compels from those who have an opportunity to talk to him. I believe the meeting with him was extremely valuable.

[Arteaga] I would like to know your comments about the Cuban investment proposals for development. What has been ALIDE's reception of these proposals?

[Garatea] We have a program for promotion of investment proposals where we gather the proposals from the

financial institutions for development, as in the case of the National Bank of Cuba through its development financing office, as well as from the banks of 23 other Latin American countries. Our job is to find financial backers or coparticipation in the technological or investment area from international sources as well as Latin American banks which are seeking investment possibilities or complementary alternatives for participating in other projects. We have seen this in some Cuban proposals which offer a lot in technological and scientific development and which can perfectly complement some other Latin American proposals.

[Arteaga] For example?

[Garatea] There was a proposal—I do not remember exactly—for a sugar byproduct. There was another for a serum for cattle. There are many possibilities, especially if one looks at the potential for Cuba to establish joint ventures in other countries to channel those products and find a much broader market for them. I think this is an approach that has not been studied or developed enough but one that could provide Cuba with hard currency income, since Cuba is way ahead of the rest of Latin America in science.

C.R. Rodriguez Meets With SELA Secretary

FL0905121791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Carlos Perez del Castillo, permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System [SELA]. Perez del Castillo is participating in the 21st ordinary meeting of the ALIDE [Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development] General Assembly. The SELA secretary explained to the Cuban leader the results of the recent meeting, in which the region's governments evaluated the Americas Initiative and agreed to keep up this type of contacts to strengthen their negotiating ability, which Latin America needs at this time.

Market Economy, Causes of WWII Deplored

FL1005105791 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 May 91

[Commentary by Daisy Gomez, permanent Cuban correspondent in Moscow—recorded]

[Text] This place where the defenders of Moscow put a stop to the hosts [words indistinct] is revered evidence of the bravery and intelligence of the Soviet people, the main protagonists of the defeat inflicted on Hitler's Germany. Presently, there has been a noticeable change in the balance of power and Europe's status quo that was established [words indistinct] the Red Army and the antifascist front in Europe. Weakness, blindness, corruption, and opportunism have helped some governments assume power in East Europe. These governments are putting pressure for a quick withdrawal of Soviet troops from their territories. They are the ones who equate the word democracy with market economy, which is the same thing as capitalism.

Politicians, historians, and the media—inside and outside the USSR—make efforts to portray the same social regime that fostered and fed Hitler's Germany and Japanese militarism over five decades ago as a savior. As a result of the end of socialism in Europe, economic and military structures such as CEMA and the Warsaw Pact are presently nothing more than ghosts. Nevertheless, NATO is being strengthened and is drafting new plans. Capitalist economic organizations such as the EEC are demanding the privatization of state enterprises and protection for the investment of foreign capital as a condition to provide any substantial financial aid.

Such demands are accompanied by lofty but empty phrases, which praise the end of confrontations between socialism and capitalism and hail the disappearance of ideologic differences in international relations.

There are many people who now a days try to change and forget history but the ambitions and forces that unleashed World War II over half a century ago are still present and are gaining popularity.

Escalona Interviewed on Return From DPRK

FL0905124291 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has arrived in our country from Pyongyang, where he attended the 85th conference of the Interparliamentary Union.

[Begin recording] [Escalona] This conference is characterized by pre-established topics—in this case, there was disarmament, an analysis of disarmament, and the problem of violence against women and children in the home—and one topic that is approved. There were several proposals, and finally the Palestinian proposal won. This concerned how we can strengthen legislative action to consolidate peace in the Middle East, including the Gulf. The resolution was, frankly, good. It condemned Israel and demanded that Israel leave all the occupied territories, including the Golan Heights, Gaza, the West Bank, etc, and that it dismantle the settlements it is building in those territories. The resolution supported the Palestinian people and in addition demanded that the embargo against the Iraqi people be lifted.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you give a few more details about your meeting with Comrade Kim Il-song?

[Escalona] Well, the meeting with Comrade Kim Il-song is not really news. It was ....[changes thought] What made it newsworthy for me was that we spent almost one and a half hours talking. He, with a lot of affection for Cuba, as always, began by asking about his brother Fidel Castro, how he is, how his health is, how things are in

Cuba, and then he explained the situation of the battle they are waging for the reunification of Korea. [end recording]

* Standards for Tourism Sector Workers Discussed

91P40254A Havana TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA in Spanish 5 Mar 91 p 3

[Excerpts] Weeds have to be rooted out wherever they grow. Tourism has not escaped their spread, but it seems the moment of truth has arrived.

The sentence was handed down some time ago—last December—in the Riviera hotel, one of the first to conclude the process of judging worker suitability initiated by INTUR (National Tourism Institute) in order to cleanse its ranks: 30 unsuitable workers were withdrawn from the sector, and 38 workers who lacked aptitude were reassigned within the same facility.

This process, said Mario Dominguez Izquierdo, general director of the Riviera, required that the records be carefully reviewed; it allowed them to analyze aptitudes and attitudes and to listen to the views of the representatives of the political and mass organizations and the immediate supervisors in order to arrive at fair conclusions.

The hotel workers learned of the review in October 1990, selected their representative to the commission, and following the evaluations they were informed about the decisions which were made. There were appeals when the workers did not agree with the evaluation; in some cases they were corrected and in others they were ratified.

Dominguez says this is the first step in something which should be systematized in order to continue reducing the level of absenteeism and achieve fast and enthusiastic service, in short, to eliminate vices and achieve discipline in the hotel sector. A change is already noticeable: You don't see people constantly sauntering in the hallways chatting, an indication that many people were neglecting their duties. It is as though there has been an innoculation against tolerance.

Another positive result of this new mechanism is that it is possible for management to impose disciplinary measures without having to depend on bureaucratic red tape which sometimes caused delays of months. They can even propose the dismissal of those at a facility who lack discipline or are lazy. [passage omitted]

The process of judging worker suitability is the mechanism chosen for praising those who can continue offering their services in this priority sector. The objectives are to achieve and maintain the attention which tourism demands, to look for suitable personnel so as to increase labor efficiency by strengthening discipline.

Suitability has to do with personal characteristics, for example, that the workers do not establish improper relationships with tourists, requesting items for their own consumption, and other characteristics which run contrary to moral and political integrity.

Aptitude has to do with the knowledge and ability which allow one to perform quality work.

The process began in November in the Riviera and Inglaterra hotels. Currently it is being carried out in eight facilities: the Triton, Presidente, Deauville, Lido, Morro, Victoria, Caribbean, which are dedicated exclusively to international tourism, and the Colony on the Isle of Youth. Beginning in March it will begin in other facilities.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Regional Leaders on Role of CDB

FL0905233191 Bridgetown CANA in English 2219 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Merida, Mexico, May 9, CANA—St. Vincent Prime Minister James Mitchell has asked the Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] to help regional governments divesting state businesses, some of which he said were "limping along under state protection." Mitchell said during the 21st meeting of the CDB board of governors, ending here Thursday, the Barbados-based bank should establish a "special unit on privatisation." The main role of the agency would be to advise governments on privatisation, Mitchell said.

Mitchell said, however, that the unit should not work on "regional investments" that would require decisions by "several governments." To go that route, he said, would be "the quickest way for the divestment unit to lose its credibility."

Prime Minister John Compton of St. Lucia took to the meeting the perception that while the bank should encourage the activities of the private sector, and in particular the "newly emerging entrepreneurs," its role should be more of "an intermediary and a facilitator" rather than the principal factor in the "fast moving machine into which the CDB's slow-moving gears may not mesh."

He welcomed the bank's emphasis on human resources development and on technical assistance and suggested that this should be extended to "enhance the private sector so that the dynamic energies of the regional entrepreneurs may be realised and their potential released."

Compton praised the U.S.A. for its continued support for the CDB, as shown by its contribution to the Special Development Fund and to the bank's "very successful basic human needs fund." Then in what was seen as an observation directed primarily at all of the CDB's non-regional donors, he declared:

"We in the Caribbean have adequately demonstrated our willingness and our determination to play our part in the development of our countries. We have carried out the necessary structural adjustment programmes—not without tears and sacrifice—and we will continue to bear our burdens...."

The non-borrowing members of the bank, he said, have also demonstrated their continued "willingness to share these burdens with us." He added: "The assistance rendered by the Guyana Support Group, led by Canada, is a case in point which must be commended."

Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford of Barbados, in joining the other governors of the bank from within and outside of the Caribbean region who made presentations, was generally complimentary in his observations of the bank's performance, noting: "The bank has demonstrated sound judgement regarding the quality and the economic impact of the projects which it has financed, and this should continue to be the major (criterion) for determining where, when, and how it should lend."

Sandiford said that perhaps one of the "principal reasons" which led him to the conclusion that the CDB should now seek to mobilise funds "through private market placements as a matter of urgency" was based on the awareness that this source of funding "will be concerned essentially with the quality of the projects in the bank's portfolio...."

As the Barbados prime minister sees it, the "essence" of the role of the CDB, mandated as it is by its charter to fund "viable development projects," requires its involvement in obtaining capital resources, appraising individual projects, and determining the capacity of the borrower to implement and maintain them efficiently.

"I feel, however," declared Sandiford, "that CDB as a unique regional financial institution, whose policies are directed by representatives of our individual governments, is well placed to promote the growth of the Caribbean economy as an entity larger than the sum of its constituent parts...."

Mitchell expressed concern about the performance of consultants and contractors selected to carry out projects financed by the bank. "I regret to say," Mitchell told the meeting, "that the track record of some firms established elsewhere and at certain points in time, is not sufficient to justify their continued deployment. Their performance should be continuously evaluated."

He said that he had the distinct impression that while "the top level" of certain firms has the expertise, such expertise is too thinly spread. Consequently, he said, "amateurs are employed to gain experience at the cost of the CDB borrowers."

Bahamas

Violence Threatens as Layoffs Increase

FL1005131691 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] In the Bahamas, public workers are reportedly being laid off in growing numbers. In a local radio interview, the president of the Bahamas Managerial Association, O.B. Ferguson, accused the government of failing to recognize the needs of public employees. He blames the slow speed of economic development, and said workers are so dissatisfied that the Bahamas faces the possibility of violence breaking out, he said.

Dominican Republic

Government Scored for Education, Health Crises

FL0905145391 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The president of the Institutional Democratic Party condemned the attitude of the government toward the professional sectors that are demanding salary increases. Ismael Reyes Cruz assured that the government's negative stance is causing the deterioration in education, health care, and other basic services.

[Begin Reyes Cruz recording] Teachers in the Dominican Republic are paid starvation wages. It is not possible for a country like ours to remain so far behind in the education of our people. Less than 2 percent of the gross domestic product is applied to education, which is the precise reason why schools are so shabby and teachers are, generally speaking, sick, and even suffer from tuberculosis, because they cannot even feed themselves properly in order to teach the children of today, who are the adults of tomorrow. The problem of health care in the country is equally grave. It is impermissible that the government allows Dominicans to die by the hundreds and even thousands for lack of timely medical care and for lack of a system of preventive medicine that would allow our people to have better health. [end recording]

Ismael Reyes Cruz also condemned those traditional politicians for the ills that are affecting the country.

[Begin Reyes Cruz recording] The ethics of the traditional political leaders have practically been lost, causing this host of ills that the Dominican Republic now has. [end recording]

* Balaguer on Illegal Haitian Immigration

91CA0110A Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 12 Apr 91 p 12

[Article by Epifanio Rodriguez and Juan Jose Rodriguez]

[Text] Boca de Mao, Esperanza—The President of the Republic, Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, while acknowledging the serious repercussions of the illegal immigration of Haitians to the Dominican Republic, warned that "we must be careful and proceed in a patient and humanitarian manner, helping that country to stabilize its democracy and regain its freedoms."

The chief of state said that organizing a peaceful coexistence between our countries is not an easy task. He

agreed that it is a necessity, but there must be a humanitarian and patriotic attitude.

He recognized that Dominicans "cannot renounce our identity as a nation; indeed, we must defend it using every means at our disposal. But we must continue to respect the rights of all human beings, including the right that Haitians have to subsist, just as we have a right to subsist, on our own island."

President Balaguer was emphatic in repeatedly declaring that his government has not neglected and will not neglect the problems we face due to illegal Haitian immigration. He feels that this is one of the most important situations the country faces. It is a tragic problem, the greatest one we have, and moreover, "it could be said that this is the greatest problem that exists in Latin America."

The president believes that no other country in the Americas is going through a similar situation or facing a problem of such magnitude, considering that this is a small island, 78 square kilometers, occupied by two prolific countries with very low levels of education.

The president of the republic was asked about the analysis of the Haitian problem that was presented Wednesday by labor law specialist Lupo Hernandez Rueda. Hernandez Rueda had advocated the enforcement of the Immigration Act against the undocumented aliens, and had cited the tremendous repercussions of the Haitian presence on our soil.

The president assured the questioners that the Haitians are being treated as immigrants and refugees at the same time. He said that they are being given special treatment that is in no way different from the way Dominicans are treated, because they enjoy the same guarantees and job opportunities.

Dr. Balaguer does not believe that legalization is necessary to solve the illegal immigration problem. In this regard, he said that there are laws to regulate the entry of foreigners into the country, dictating the manner in which they may come in.

He said that these foreigners have come to our territory as a result of very difficult circumstances prevailing in Haiti, especially in recent years.

President Balaguer repudiated rigid attitudes, and said that instead "we should be flexible, because Haiti is facing an exceptionally difficult situation, going through a transition period right now between dictatorship and democracy. What we must do is help them to solve their problems and join the democracies of Latin America, to respect the rights of their citizens, to establish political pluralism, and to follow the same steps that we followed when our dictatorship ended and democratic institutions were installed in our country."

He recalled that in his last appearance before the Legislative Chambers, he had acknowledged that we cannot tolerate the presence of thousands of illegal immigrants in our territory, because we do not have the capacity to feed them and educate them. We barely have enough to feed, educate, and support our own nationals.

Nevertheless, he insisted once again that the Dominican Republic and all countries have an obligation to help one another, especially when difficult situations such as Haiti's arise.

"That is the attitude we have adopted," said the president, referring to the aid that is being offered to Haitians, such as jobs in the sugar mills, in agriculture in general, and even in commerce and other productive activities, where they are able to participate in complete freedom.

Balaguer stressed the importance of a meeting between him and the president of Haiti, which might result in agreements beneficial to both countries.

And finally, he stated that "when the recently elected government of Haiti becomes stabilized, we could implement appropriate systems for regularizing abnormal situations, specifically, illegal immigration."

* PRI President Supports Deporting Haitians

91CA0110B Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Mar 91 p 8

[Article by Livio Mariano Cedeno]

[Excerpt] Higuey—Mr. Jacobo Majluta declared that a government headed by him would send more than half a million Haitians, who are illegally living in this country, back to their own country.

The president of the Independent Revolutionary Party (PRI) expressed his views at the residence of Dr. Miguel Castro Valdez, former candidate for the Senate. He also said that he would like to see a satisfactory solution to the crisis that has shaken the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) to its foundations following the resignation of its president, Professor Juan Bosch.

Majluta was interviewed after swearing in the new municipal leaders of his organization, which is led here by Dr. Carlos Martinez Rodriguez.

"We are the best example of what happens to a person who illegally enters a foreign territory," he stated. "Not a day goes by that we do not receive people back from Puerto Rico, New York, Boston, Italy, the Virgin Islands, and even Haiti itself."

He complained that "the only country in the world that does not do that is the Dominican Republic, and that is why probably more than 10 percent of the Haitian population is in the Dominican Republic."

"Moreover, we are talking about more than half a million jobs that Haitians are taking away from Dominicans," he declared, "and about a population that is consuming food produced in the Dominican Republic.

This is part of the reason why we do not have enough for Dominicans to have an adequate diet.

"The only appropriate measure, no different than what is done in the United States, in France, in Italy, or anywhere else, is to get rid of the undocumented Haitians, who are the vast majority, or any other foreigner who is living in the Republic and working in the Republic, without complying with the provisions of the law," he emphasized.

"I believe that the first step the government should take is to invite the UN and the OAS to send a commission to oversee the removal of no fewer than half a million Haitians from the Dominican Republic, and to get a commitment from the UN and the OAS, as well as the richest countries in the area, to help the Republic of Haiti to solve its problem, which we cannot solve ourselves," he stated.

The president of the PRI indicated that "just doing this would go a long way toward solving the Dominican Republic's problems: Employment would improve, food would be more abundant and better, public services would also improve, and Haiti would receive aid not just from one country, but from a concert of nations that have plenty of everything, while Haiti lacks everything human beings need."

At the headquarters of the PRI Municipal Committee, Majluta swore in Drs. Miguel Castro Valdez, Jose Rodriguez Reyes, and Carlos Martinez Rodriguez as president, vice president, and general secretary, respectively. He also swore in Mr. Ramiro Eulogio Rodriguez as secretary of organization, as well as other officers.

The former leader was accompanied by Dr. Jose Rafael Molina Urena, general secretary of the PRI, as well as Hector Guzman, Amado Hernandez, Alex Ramirez, Rafael Agustin Peralta, Milvio Maldonado, Ramon Cordero, and La Romana leaders Tomas Rodriguez and Dulce Maria Castro, among others.

After lunching at the residence of Dr. Castro Valdez, Mr. Majluta visited the city of El Seibo, where he swore in the new municipal leaders of the PRI. [passage omitted]

* Majluta Swears In New PRI Directors

91CA0110C Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 3 Apr 91 p 4

[Article by Maximo Manuel Perez]

[Text] Mr. Jacobo Majluta said yesterday that the country is going through a "chaotic" situation, but to change it the people will have to wait until 1994, when they can do so through the ballot box.

The leader of the Independent Revolutionary Party (PRI) pointed out that in view of this situation, his party is working to strengthen itself so that it can become the only reliable instrument on which the country can pin its hopes.

He added that the process of alliance building that will take place in the country with a view to the upcoming general elections will be decisive in the triumph of a certain party.

Majluta said that the large number of abstentions in the May 1990 election represents a "disaster" for the Dominican electoral system.

The former president of the Senate spoke yesterday at the local PRI headquarters on Avenida Bolivar after swearing in eight new members of the party's National Executive Committee.

"The PRI may enter into an alliance with another party, but it will never merge with another, because we realize that after the electoral disaster that the country went through last year, alliances will be decisive in any organization that seeks power," he added.

He indicated that his organization "is the only party with the possibility of growing to win the 1994 elections."

Majluta declared that "the disaster of the last elections left the electoral system in such a serious crisis that it will be necessary for any party seeking power to forge alliances with other organizations."

Majluta also said that the PRI has certainly had contacts with international and local Christian Democratic leaders, but he added that although both sides have shown interest in reaching unification agreements, "there has also been opposition both here and there."

He indicated that the PRI is a modern party that believes in alliances, "but this should not at all be regarded as a possible merger. Not at all," he insisted.

He stated that "there is a chaotic situation in the country that must be changed through the vote, and that will happen when the PRI wins the elections in 1994."

Before taking the oaths of the new PRI directors, Majluta chaired a closed-door meeting with several members of the party's decisionmaking bodies.

The new directors are Jose A. Martinez Rojas, Alberto Athala, Danny de Leon, Cristobal Manzanillo, Elias de la Rosa, Tacito Perdomo, Guarionex Lluberes Montas, and Frank Bendek.

* Middle Class Housing Shortage To Double

91CA0110D Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Mar 91 p 1-D

[Text] Although the real-estate market appears to be saturated with luxury residences for sale, the supply of houses for the middle class is limited, in the opinion of the president of Cupido Realty.

Maria Mora indicated that except for housing built by the government, very few construction firms and finance companies are devoting resources to building and financing homes for the middle class.

The real-estate executive stated that the housing shortage, which is about 600,000 units, will double in a relatively short period of time. The reason for this is that government construction is not sufficient to make up for the number of homes demolished. "Quantitatively, more people are evicted than can be accommodated by new or existing housing."

She said that "every building that is demolished means that more than five families who had been living in the old facilities, rooming houses and primary construction, become homeless, thus posing a social problem."

Mora, who is the head of the Association of Real-Estate Agents (ADAI), pointed out that the owners or investors holding some housing units intended for lease or rental are now rushing to put them on the market.

She regards this development as "alarming," because it has considerably reduced the supply of rental housing for medium- and low-income sectors.

She reported that the ADAI is preparing a seminar to be held on the 22d of this month as part of its educational program aimed at all real estate professionals, executives, and the general public.

Mora stated that rising costs for financing, land, manpower, and construction materials, as well as technical supervision, mean that the majority of middle-class families, who used to be able to purchase a home with their own savings, can no longer do so.

She indicated that work is now being done on a draft that will serve as the basis for a long-term housing policy law in an effort to lend coherence and continuity to the actions of successive administrations in the agency she heads. "The objective is to solve the current housing shortage and to meet the needs of growing demand during the lifetime of the law," she said.

She indicated that the value of an investment is the income it generates or the satisfaction derived from it, but in the case of real estate, this precept is ignored in this country.

* Falconbridge Reports Nickel Production Drop

91CA0110E Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 9 Apr 91 p 1-D

[Article by Ramon Almanzar]

[Text] Although Falconbridge saw its nickel exports climb 5 percent in 1990 over the 1989 total, production of this mineral was 10 percent "below normal."

This information is contained in the Falconbridge annual report, a copy of which was supplied to this newspaper.

Production of "nickel in ferronickel" in 1990 amounted to 28,701 metric tons (63.3 million pounds).

The drop in production is attributed to "the maintenance shutdowns of the production plants and the power plant, as well as the repairs and modifications of the refractory pairs of electric furnace number three."

The amount of nickel contained in the ferronickel exported from the country in 1990 was 30,557 metric tons (67.4 million pounds), notes the report.

The average price of the nickel in ferronickel in 1990 was $3.89 per pound, compared to $5.83 in 1989, a difference of $1.94.

The Falconbridge report indicates that as of 31 December 1990, reserves of the mineral totaled 36 million dry metric tons, with a nickel content of 1.74 percent.

The annual report summary states that in early 1990, the nickel prices prevailing on the world market were low, although they increased in the second and third quarters of the year. They closed the year with another decline.

Falconbridge reported total shares of $117,266,394.00 as of 31 December 1990, according to the general balance sheet.

* Construction of Blanco River Dam Funded

91CA0110G Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 20 Mar 91 p 4

[Text] The National Institute of Water Resources (INDRHI) has turned over the funds to complete the advance payment in pesos to the Blanco River Consortium so that work can resume on the civil construction projects of the Hydroelectric Project located on the Blanco and Tireo Rivers and the Tireo and Arroyon Streams in the municipality of Bonao.

The funds, totaling 21.549 million pesos, were turned over by INDRHI director C. Augusto Rodriguez Gallart in a ceremony attended by representatives of the Blanco River Consortium, Venezuelan Ambassador Hector Vargas Acosta, Dominican Electricity Corporation Administrator Ramon Perez Martinez, the ambassadors from France and Italy, legislators from the province of Monsenor Nouel, and executives of the consulting firm ELC-Electroconsult-ICIDOM [expansions not given].

The total cost of the Blanco River Hydroelectric Project is estimated at $114 million. The advance payment was received by Fernando Martinez, who represents the consortium. The members of the consortium are the Venezuelan firms Ghella de Venezuela & Cia, S.A. (GHELLA) and Lopez Ruiz, Ingenieros, C.A. (LORICA), and the Dominican firm Constructores y Proyectistas Asociados, S.A. (COPRA), according to a note.

The financing of these projects comes from Loan Contract No. PR-RD-13-141, signed by the Venezuelan Investment Fund (FIV) and the Dominican Republic under the auspices of the San Jose Accord.

The hydroelectric project will have an installed capacity of 25,000 kilowatts and annual electricity generation of 108 million kilowatt-hours. The power will be distributed by the Dominican Electricty Corporation grid.

The projects to be built include a gravity dam on the Blanco River that will be 44 meters high, 164 meters long at the crest, 55,000 cubic meters in concrete, with a free spillway capable of handling 170 cubic meters per second.

* Land Seizures Increase After Balaguer Speech

91CA0110H Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Mar 91 p 5

[Article by Rafael Nunez]

[Text] Thousands of acres belonging to the State Sugar Council (CEA) and to private landowners have been invaded in the last few days all around the Cristo Redentor Cemetery.

The "invaders" say that they have taken President Joaquin Balaguer at his word. Last Thursday he stated in Barahona that "as long as there is vacant land in the country, there will be landless peasants who will take the law into their own hands."

Land seizures have been reported in Jarabacoa, Villa Mella, San Juan de la Maguana, Los Alcarrizos, and the neighborhoods of Kuwait, El Golfo Primero and Golfo Segundo, and Los Girasoles. The latter neighborhoods are near the Cristo Redentor Cemetery, and clashes have occurred there between the squatters and police officers and private security guards.

Yesterday when hundreds of people occupied a plot of land that allegedly belongs to the State Sugar Council, private guards killed Mr. Inocencio Arcangel Santos (Chencho) and wounded eight others.

The victim's wife, Maria Casilda Vasquez, told EL NACIONAL that Santos was gunned down at the home of Magalis Polanco and Dominga Rosario, who were also wounded.

The hundreds of people who have seized the land live in the Los Angeles neighborhood at km 13, and in Los Alcarrizos. They divided the land up into large parcels for farming.

Large tracts of land covered in hawthorn, logwood, and guama have been cleared by people to make farm plots.

Although much of this land belongs to the CEA, some of it is owned by private individuals who received releases from the consortium. They have been cultivating this land for several years and paid large sums of money for it. This is the case of businessman Miguel Luciano, who has complained that the authorities are doing nothing to stop the squatters.

Today at the wake held for the worker who was killed yesterday, local residents said they will not leave the land "even if there are more deaths."

The police department reported today that security guards Segundo Mateo Medina, Roberto Montero Mateo, and Socrates Roa, all employees of the Special Protection Guard Service Company, are under arrest in connection with the death of Inocencio Arcangel Santos.

Groups of people wielding machetes and other tools for cutting brush invaded about eight properties in the communities of La Hoya and El Pedregal, in Jarabacoa, between yesterday and today. No authorities intervened to remove them, complained landowner Cesar Guzman.

He explained that the Associations of Landowners and Producers of Jarabacoa will meet today to assess the situation.

Dr. Guzman stated that it is not only peasants, but also other people who are occupying land in both rural and urban areas.

He indicated that the squatters have cut down trees and clipped wires on land planted in vegetables and fodder. Among the properties invaded is one belonging to a lady named Albra and another owned by a Dr. Guerra who lives in Santo Domingo.

The landowner said that the police were asked to intervene, but the authorities have not taken any action.

A few days ago 19 citizens went to President Joaquin Balaguer to alert him to the excesses committed against them when their land was seized in Villa Mella.

The group explained that they are the legitimate owners, with legal title to small parcels and plots of land in the Rancho Retiro development in San Felipe, Villa Mella.

The land had been used for orchards, vegetable crops, nurseries, and poultry farming.

* Troops Arrest Campesinos in Land Invasions

91CA0110I Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Apr 91 p 13

[Article by Luis Cespedes Pena]

[Text] Santiago—More than 300 peasants were arrested by police and military authorities after they invaded private land in various parts of this province, reported the police.

A police spokesman also stated that crime is under control in this area.

The spokesman for the Northern Regional Police Command, Major Jose Miguel Betances Urena, said that charges have been filed against the peasants implicated in the invasions.

Other peasants are being investigated by the authorities of the General Office of Forestry.

The invasions have taken place in Cienfuegos, Hatillo Palma, and Hato Mayor.

The peasants who are seizing the land have no place to work or to build homes.

Invasions had taken place earlier in the area of Montecristi.

Major Betances Urena stated that the preventive measures taken by the police have been successful in controlling crime.

He explained that the police are providing routine services in every district of the city, as well as the other municipalities that make up the Northern Regional Police Command.

The public relations official of the armed institution stated that the fact that hardly any incidents took place during Holy Week was an indication of the success of the effort.

He explained that police officials will take the same kind of preventive action throughout the jurisdiction.

He emphasized the work that the different departments of the institution are doing to control crime.

*** Congress President Deplores Land Seizures**

91CA0110J Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 23 Mar 91 p 2

[Article by Modesto Rodriguez]

[Text] The president of the Chamber of Deputies called upon peasants throughout the country to refrain from seizing land and to wait for passage of the bill that will authorize the Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) to administer lands suitable for irrigation and vacant holdings.

Norge Botello Fernandez stated that the occupation of state- or privately-owned land is jeopardizing the peace that the nation enjoys.

He declared that some individuals and sectors have misinterpreted the recent statements by President Joaquin Balaguer regarding the problem of large tracts of land that lie idle.

Botello Fernandez warned that the attitude of the peasants who become desperate and occupy private or state land could degenerate into acts of violence, because some landowners are willing to defend their property at all costs.

Botello Fernandez reported that he has in his possession the bill drafted by the administration, which would place land suitable for irrigation and vacant holdings under the control of the state, thorugh the IAD.

He explained that the bill must go through all stages of the normal process that legislation of this scope and importance is subjected to, including public hearings.

The bill in question, he said, could be effective in spirit, but it must not be allowed to become an instrument for undermining private property.

Botello Fernandez stated that the IAD will be able to contribute to peace in the countryside if it makes good use of the land, helping a large number of peasants to participate in farming.

He indicated that he has received numerous calls from people whose property has been seized by purportedly landless peasants. For example, he was called by the trustee of Jarabacoa, who complained that the city is being turned into a slum by squatters who have erected huts. The president of the Congress declared that the tension in the countryside due to the land seizures could give rise to a great tragedy.

"We urge the peasants throughout the country to be patient and to have faith in the Chamber of Deputies, in the National Congress, because we will give the bill fair treatment. We are aware of the peasants' need to have a place where they can earn a living," he said.

President Joaquin Balaguer submitted a bill to the Chamber of Deputies on the 7th of this month. The bill would provide for the expropriation of vacant land that is suitable for irrigation, and the transfer of that land, upon entering into a payment agreement, to agrarian reform programs.

In the statement of the grounds for the bill, the chief of state declared that peace in the nation and the stability of the Dominican family depend greatly on the intensification of agrarian reform.

In a letter sent to the president of the Lower House, Balaguer said that the country also depends on an increasing number of farmers to cultivate the land.

Balaguer explained that there is a great deal of idle land suitable for irrigation in this country, and a large number of landless peasants who are pressuring the government to distribute the land to them.

The holdings that will be transferred to the IAD will be those that are idle, suitable for irrigation, and vacant for a period of two years beginning on the effective date of the law.

The bill was read before the Chamber of Deputies on 12 March, and was sent to the standing committees on agriculture and justice, which are chaired by Mario Fernandez Savinon (PRSC [Christian Social Revolutionary Party]-Duarte) and Ramon Andres Blanco Fernandez (PLD [Dominican Liberation Party]-National District), respectively.

Fernandez Savinon and his colleague, reformist spokeswoman Rafaela Alburquerque, have said that the bill is "fraught with conflict."

Earlier this month, President Balaguer declared in Palmarito, in Barahona Province, that as long as there is idle land and people who need land, there will be those who take justice into their own hands.

* Market Basket Prices To Drop 'Incredibly'

91CA0110K Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 25 Mar 91 p 5

[Article by Manuel Torres]

[Excerpt] The majority of food products are continuing to decline in price. As a result, there has been a wave of discounts among large and small commercial establishments throughout the country.

The prices of some items, such as beans, garlic, onions, spaghetti noodles, and potatoes, have fallen by more than 50 percent, discovered journalists who spread out around the capital this morning.

So far prices have come down for the various brands of imported powdered milk, tomato paste, soybean oil, corn oil, peanut oil, frozen and processed chicken, toilet paper, eggs, herring, laundry soap, red beans and imported beans, garlic, potatoes, spaghetti noodles, pasta, and macaroni.

The economic recession has also forced fabric stores and shoe stores to offer discounts of up to 40 percent on their goods.

Sandino Bisono, chairman of the Consumer Defense Council (Conadeco), and Agustin Penalo Ortiz, chairman of the Union of Nonfederated Merchants, agreed in separate interviews that if the government decrees a reduction in fuel prices, "all products in the family basket will drop incredibly."

A pound of onions is now selling for 3 pesos, compared to a high of 35 pesos. Garlic, formerly at 35 pesos, is now fetching 13 to 15 pesos. Potatoes, which used to sell for up to 7 pesos a pound, are now going for 2 to 2.50 pesos.

Eggs are still selling for 90 centavos to a peso in the grocery stores, but in the market places they can be had for 70 to 75 centavos. A gallon of soybean oil, with a controlled price of 81.05 pesos, can be purchased in grocery stores for 75 pesos, and for 69.99 pesos in the large supermarkets. A pound of herring has been worth as much as 18 pesos, but now it can be bought for 12 to 13 pesos. And laundry soap, officially set at 4.05 pesos, can be had for 3.59 pesos.

Corn oil, which ordinarly costs 80 pesos a gallon, was selling for 74.69 pesos today. Five-pound cans of Milex milk, which is widely used for infants, are going for 114 to 122.79 pesos, compared to a normal price of as much as 135 pesos. A pound of chicken used to sell for nearly 13 pesos, but now it fetches only 9.25 pesos in the supermarkets. And tomato paste is selling for 15 to 16 pesos a kilogram, despite the officially controlled price of 21 pesos.

Bisono and Pena Ortiz said that red beans, which have been priced as high as 35 pesos a pound, are priced today on the market at 8 to 10 pesos, and they are of good quality. Imported beans are going for 7 pesos for 16 ounces, compared to an official price of 7.75 pesos.

They pointed out that a kilogram of red beans once got as high as 35 pesos, and today it is selling for 18 to 19 pesos. A sack of onions cost 1,200 pesos a couple of months ago; now it is selling for 150 pesos. And a kilogram of potatoes has fallen from 12 pesos to 4 pesos. [passage omitted]

* Food Prices Dropping, Supply Improving

91CA0110L Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 4 Apr 91 p 1-D

[Article by Arsenio Ramirez]

[Text] Not only has the supply of foodstuffs improved considerably in the markets of Santo Domingo, but prices for the majority of farm products are also dropping.

The prices of red onions, garlic, potatoes, beans, and pasta have continued falling in the markets and supermarkets of Santo Domingo.

Merchants who operate stalls in the Nuevo Market on Avenida Duarte and the Villa Consuelo Market complained that sales have declined drastically in the last few days.

Other products whose prices have fallen are chicken and vegetables such as salad tomatoes, cabbage, carrots, and cucumbers.

A pound of red onions sells for 3 to 3.50 pesos in the markets, while the price is two pounds for 7 pesos in the large supermarkets.

A pound of garlic costs 15 to 16 pesos in the public market places, and 16 ounces of spaghetti noodles costs 4.75 to 5 pesos.

The supermarkets are selling red beans on special for 9 to 10 pesos a pound; the price is 11, 12, or 13 pesos in the market places.

Processed chicken fetches between 9.75 and 10 pesos a pound; until just a few days ago it was selling for 11 pesos. In the supermarkets, frozen chicken goes for 9.29 pesos a pound.

A tour of the markets revealed that vegetables, especially salad tomatoes, have fallen in price. A pound of tomatoes is worth 1.75 pesos, and barcelo sells for 1.50 pesos.

A large head of cabbage costs between 3 and 4 pesos, while 16 ounces of carrots costs 2.50 pesos.

A pound of select "B" rice costs 5 pesos, and superior rice sells for 4.50 pesos.

Business leader Agustin Penalo Ortiz stated that the price of the grain may decline in the next few days, as soon as the Farm Bank begins distributing the first 10,000 tons that it imported.

"We are certain that the price of rice will drop under pressure from imports. Millers were making a killing on the rice business, but I think the party is over now," said Penalo Ortiz, who is general secretary of the Union of Associations of Nonfederated Merchants.

He observed that the grain is following in the footsteps of beans; as soon as the government, through the National Institute of Price Stabilization (Inespre), brought in pinto beans, red beans began to come down in price.

Haiti

Aristide Delivers Labor Day Speech

FL0805154291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 2300 GMT 1 May 91

[Speech by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at a 1 May Labor Day celebration in Damien—monitored in progress; passages in italics in French]

[Text] ...to build roads and organize agriculture, they put at our disposal $6 million. We said this on 7 February. From those $6 million, we have received $2 million, of which 300,000 Haitian dollars [as heard] are being used for to build the road in Cazeau, which will go to Freres and extend to Delmas 3. About 20 youth are working on it with several engineers. In June, while celebrating Children's World Day, we will have the opportunity to see the work that the youth can do with these engineer-architects. As I am talking about the Chinese [Taiwanese] Government, I see the Chinese [Taiwanese] ambassador is here. I am happy to welcome him because it is rare that he is absent when we are present.

Another $6 million will be lent to the Haitian Army at a very low interest rate. I am happy to announce to the Haitian Army, particularly the High Command members here and all the soldiers who are here or absent, that the paperwork to receive the $6 million has already arrived and will be submitted to the Parliament so that the Haitian Army will be happy. [applause]. I suppose, I suppose that, without being jealous or selecting favorites, if I put my ears on a few people's stomachs, they would tell me: We just applauded but we would like to applaud for Captain Neptune along with Colonel Saint Jules. [applause] Am I lying? Why would you like that? Because we have security? Where are the zenglendos? [applause] Should the zenglendos come back? [audience shouts: No!] We say to the zenglendos: We challenge you; come confront us if you can [Min Kwa mammou ou, min kwa papaou, vin]. And as we know that macoutes and zenglendos are resistant [applause]; if they come back, we will hit them four times harder. [applause] You asked me to tighten my pants around my waist. I did, and if the zenglendos really want to see them around my waist, they just have to come. [applause]

Other than the security matter, I know another problem that is bothering you: It is the high cost of living. [applause] We will soon discuss it. Meanwhile, before we go on with that, last night, in a meeting of all the ministers, we agreed with the minister of commerce to suspend all licenses. This will allow anyone who wishes to buy rice to do so as he wants. [applause] It is not yet the solution to the rice problem. We are trying to encourage more rice imports, but it is not yet the real solution to the rice problem.

There is also the question of the workers' wages. [applause] We like dialogue. That is why the Ministry of Social Affairs, on behalf of the government, has not stopped talking with employers, labor unions, and workers to see if we can find a salary which will lighten the workers' pains but not provide any pretext on which an employer would transfer his factory to the Dominican Republic or elsewhere. Because we are a responsible government, we did not rush to adopt a salary which would give the employers a pretext to run away. It is true that the struggle must help reduce the high cost of living, as one of you just said, so that when the salary increase comes as a minimum wage, such an increase will be helpful. I am not going to tell you that I am providing you with full satisfaction, but I should not either fall into demagogy with you. If among you some people agree with us, the government is happy about that. If some of you feel dissatisfied, we will seek dialogue in order to find wisdom at this moment.

Therefore we in the government suggest a minimum wage to the Parliament with the hope and desire that the Parliament will not have any problems going in the same direction with us. If we keep it at 28 gourdes as we said before, some employers will find a pretext to run away. We are suggesting 25 gourdes. [applause] We say 25 gourdes and we are taking off the 30 percent adjustment, which makes the employers pay a little more, until the month of October. We are taking off the 30 percent to allow the employers to improve the workers' living conditions. If by October we realize that the employers do not understand us, and have not done anything to improve the workers situation, we will reinstate the 30 percent and if we have to add more, we will. We then hope that such a decision shows that we, as an avalanche [lavalas] government, are defending the workers' interests while also defending the employers' rights. Those interests are tied up with this decision. If the employers see that, we are happy and if they do not, we are willing to discuss it. This is what is called democracy.

I now have some sweet talk for the bourgeois. But before I start, I would like you to understand that the government knows which sickness hurts you the most right now. Which

one? [audience: Hunger] Well, when you hear the ministers of social affairs, of agriculture, and of public works speak, and all the other ministers, if they do not speak it is not because they do not have anything to say. In this way, it allows for some openness and saves the rest for another day so that the speeches are not too long.

We will say that it is a pity that the rice problem has not been solved yet. We are trying to see how it can be done. We will not take the time to look for a needle in a haystack, but we will have patience. The minister of commerce is now in Artibonite with the minister of justice to see how they can solve the rice problem by buying rice abroad to sell here, while at the same time trying to avoid imported rice competing with the Artibonite rice.

The Artibonite can produce enough rice not only for all Haitians to eat plenty but at the same time enough rice to sell abroad. We know that and we are working on making the Artibonite produce rice for all and also to export. Can we do that in one day? [audience: No!] We can not but we have started working to reach that goal.

Now I am going to give the bourgeois their sweet talk. I will tell them that I have made some efforts because I do not like to speak from a paper, but I wrote a speech for them, so that I will not take away even a little of the sweetness contained in it. [applause] In the same way, I do not like to speak French when we are talking to the whole country, where only a few people speak French. But since I do not like people to translate into French what I say in Creole because they do not translate correctly sometimes, please allow me to throw some bourgeois French words in the bourgeois' ears. [applause] So that these words will enter smoothly and no one will translate by adding salt, vinegar, and pepper, because I would like those words to enter very smoothly into their ears, [applause] If I am going to talk especially to them, it is because I think that while celebrating the 1st of May when there is such a high unemployment rate in the country, the government must speak not only with you who are unemployed, but also with people who are able to create jobs and who may be willing to create jobs. Those people are watching television. Let us give them a small demonstration to ask them if they see a few people working or most people working. Please, people who are not working, raise your hands. [audience raise hands and shout] Very well; thanks. You can drop your hands now. We have as witness the entire diplomatic corps. [repeats in French] You see, you are listening and you are the witnesses.

In 1789 there was a great revolution in France. In the same period, the revolutionary wind was also blowing in Haiti. Toussaint Louverture, a courageous man, stood up so that black men and women of Haiti stopped being people's servants. That means, work; work for a revolution that destroys slavery and creates jobs. In Artibonite, three quarters of the soldiers with Toussaint Louverture were marching without shirts. One quarter of the soldiers were walking without shirt or pants. Despite not eating well, dressing well, getting paid well, or sleeping well, the Haitian Army along with Toussaint Louverture stood up to find freedom and equality. They wanted freedom and freedom came. They wanted equality, equality did not come. Is there equality between poor and rich? [audience: No!] Is there equality between bourgeois and poor? [audience: No!] Is there equality between land owners and little peasants? [audience: No!] If there were equality as Toussaint Louverture wished, there would be jobs for all men and women of Haiti. This equality that we do not find in the country does not exist any where else in Latin America either.

That is why in Latin America every time you meet three young people, one is unemployed. Equality does not exist either in Central America. For every hundred people in Central America, 57 are not working. We can take as an example Guatemala, for every 100 persons, 42 are unemployed. In Honduras with 4.3 million people, 71 percent are living in poverty. Brazil, in the last 10 years, has more poor people, from 29 million to 48 million. In Peru, it is even more terrible. At the beginning of 1990, inflation went up to 3000 percent. All of that because there is no equality in those countries either. Despite all of that, the big amount of money in Latin America is resting in the rich countries and the money keeps increasing to the point that during the past 10 years, these amounts reached $200 billion. In these countries, just as in our country, there is no equality. There is always a group of rich people, plotting with the state to keep poor people in slavery. Therefore, it is always the same situation: Donkeys work and horses gallop. [audience says the sentence with him]

Thanks to lavalas, the Haitian state divorced itself from the elite ti lolit. [applause] Thanks to lavalas, the Haitian state divorced the elite ti lolit to marry the patriotic bourgeois and not the people who steal money from the government [patripoche bourgeois]. [applause] In the past, the state squeezed and sucked in contraband with the elite ti lolit to make easy money. In the past, the state squeezed and sucked with the elite ti lolit in drug dealings. In the past, the state squeezed and sucked with the elite ti lolit in stealing, making easy money. [applause] All prayers have an Amen. [applause] [repeats] Does this prayer have an Amen? [audience: Yes!] [repeats] Let us repeat Amen again and again: Amen, Amen, Amen. [audience repeats with him]. Toussaint Louverture, along with us says Amen. Toussaint Louverture along with us says enough. Toussaint Louverture along with us says: Lavalas just started to flood in order to put disorder in order. [applause] *Yesterday, fear; today, peace. While the masses and some patriotic bourgeois were putting an heroic resistance to dictatorship, the anti-nationalist oligargy took refuge in a pathological submission— obsessive fear; fear of dictatorship; dictatorship of a regime; a regime with an anti-nationalist oligargy. Yesterday, fear; today, peace. Tightly linked in a system of exploitation, the anti-nationalist oligarcy and people in charge left us with an economy in agony. The creation of a new economic order is imperative. Therefore*

we must reach a policy of alliance. Alliance between the bourgeois capital and the revolutionary capital of the popular flood. Alliance between the defeated dollar and the dollar's conqueror. Dear foreign investors, brothers and sisters of the Haitian bourgeoisie, be delighted! It is still the chance that passes by and the chance to take. Your dollar lives in peace [que la paix du dollar soit avec vous].

Your dollar lives in peace. May the fear of peace depart from you like an avalanche. [applause] All of you, let us participate in this new economic order. Now at the crossing of nationalism and internationalism, arises a militant solidarity which we necessarily need to spread with the standard of democracy as we institute little by little our society of order.

The Haitian people are smart. The Haitian people succeeded. When we attempt to dispense literacy everywhere in the country, when we attempt to establish equality everywhere, on behalf of our ancestors, then we will see how nice it is for the patriotic bourgeois to turn their back on the patripoche bourgeois, and the people along with the patriotic bourgeois will make their country feast all the way. [applause] What a beautiful people. What a people who love their country. Look at all the sectors of solidarity which are being organized all over the country: Go to the provinces; Turn to the Basic Church Community [TKL]; go to VOAM [expansion unknown]; visit the 10th department [Haitian communities abroad.] It is just great! Hats off to Haiti. Hats off to Haitians. Even if our tripe is being cut in cutting sugar cane in the Dominican Republic, that does not prevent us from continuing the solidarity for equality to become a reality. Special congratulations to the 10th department. Even if they are working hard in cold weather, they remain steadfast. Abobo [voodoo-based equivalent to alleluia] to all natives who have not forgotten their home! [applause]

This great solidarity song makes me remember the solidarity that exists within the Jewish people. I asked you a while ago to allow me to use some French words. Allow me to say a word in the language of Jewish friends, in the language of Jesus, the Jewish language. We need solidarity with them who had so much desert and succeeded in transforming much of their desert. They are already willing to come help us here to make the lands produce food so food can lower food prices. [indistinct words in Hebrew] *Jointly with all our foreign friends and as the light of so many stars shines at the northern horizon, we are happy to renew our fidelity to the international pact regarding economic, social, and cultural rights. Indeed, according to the December 1966 pact, the state must take all measures to allow everyone to have satisfactory living condition, to be protected against hunger, and as such to improve the production, preservation, and distribution of food products.*

That falls within the Constitution of our country which asks me to embrace the Dominican ambassador who is here. Haitian people, remember our brothers working hard in the Dominican Republic, embrace President Balaguer, his government, the entire Dominican people for two reasons: We can come together to improve the situation of our brothers and sisters who are working over there and we are certain that the Dominican Government, which knows how nice it is for these two people, Haitian and Dominican people, who resemble a small bird, to fly with two wings. I attach those two wings to the bird so that the island flies, so the macoutes cannot escape. When we ask them to cooperate with us in order to arrest them, they are arrested. [applause] Therefore brother of mine, despite the distance, I believe that we can continue walking together. The Dominican and the Haitian people should always be brothers and sisters in the struggle for the people's victory because we have one sole land, one sole struggle, and victory will be ours. [Preceding two sentences in Spanish] [applause]

I know that some people might feel jealous and they will be right because they deserve having a few words in their native language. I am talking about the donkey which is fully loaded. [U.S. Ambassador Alvin Adams] [applause] Even if you do not see him today, there is no danger, no failure because we are walking hand in hand to move forward. [applause] So even though you are not here [indistinct words in English]

[Passage indistinct] not here so that he would feel jealous even if he is not a jealous bishop, but if we greet them in their native language, it is certain that they will be happy. The Apostolic Nuncio is in Rome. We are organizing ourselves for him to return so that when he does he feels well at home. We have begun walking together and will continue to walk together [indistinct passage in Italian]

We will not stay too long. If today you see that we made a little trip, we could have continued going to several other countries in several languages. I needed international witnesses, for them to see how we, along with the patriotic bourgeois, not the patripoche bourgeois [crowd laughs] how we do not declare war. Rather how we, as children of the same country, you will not let pride hold you as the patriotic bourgeois, to give hands to the people who are organizing the collection. Even though the people did not see you on Sunday, I know that you started to participate and you will continue to participate. I will tell the people that even if they did not see the bourgeois on the TV screen, I have witnesses who advised me that they started to send subscriptions, checks, and have shown their willingness to move in the people's direction. That is why I took all these international witnesses who will be happy to see how the patriotic bourgeois and not the patripoche bourgeois are walking with a country that does not agree to walk with the elite ti lotlit. [applause] This is provided by the Constitution of our country. Responsibilities are charges [Haitian proverb]. This charge we carry even when we are sleeping. The day before yesterday I only slept for three hours. Not because I could not sleep due to things that are too heavy for me to carry, but because I was pondering the situation of the bourgeois people in Haiti who must become nationalist bourgeois. People who sleep with Jean are those who know Jean's snore. We

sleep with Jean. The patriotic bourgeois do not sleep with Jean but you and I know Jean's snore. I sleep with the people. I know the people's snore. You see the people of Haiti roaring over the rice matter; you see the people of Haiti roaring over the unemployment matter; you see the people of Haiti roaring over the high cost of living; Oh Lord, Oh Lord! [laughter and applause]. If you see them roaring, be careful, because when they are tired of roaring they will start to mutter. [applause]

When the people are tired of roaring, they will start [audience: to mutter]. When they are tired of roaring, they will start [audience: to mutter]. And what did I say on being careful? When they start muttering, they will not mutter against people who are defending them but they will roar against people who became rich at their expense. [applause] If you think that by the sinister act of burning the Hyppolite market the people will mutter against those who defend them, you will not succeed [wa ian]. [applause] If you think that you will create a black market so that the people say down with its government, you will not succeed [wa ian.] [applause]. If you think you will do what is wrong to prevent the cost of rice from going down, to prevent the other products from going down so the people say down with the government, they will say government for life. [applause]

We, as a constitutional government, we say we do not want to be for life. We do not want to be for life. [repeats] We want five years; five clean years; five correct years. [applause] As such, we say, if you hear the people say for life, it is probably because of two reasons. The first reason is because the patripoche bourgeois and zenglendos give money so that people with small brains will say for life, in order to direct criticism on us and the people. The second reason is that when they see the reason why they put the sellers in this situation, it was to make the people say down with government, instead of saying down it says for life. [applause] And because we are a constitutional government, we say five years are five years. So, the people are roaring. Watch out for them so that they do not start muttering. Because if they are muttering, you will see noon before 1400. You will see Friday before Saturday; you will see the Saturday before Easter, after Easter Sunday. And we do not want that. [repeats].

So let us agree to move forward. Brothers and sisters of mine, we spent a little time together, just as we would walk throughout the country to go meet our peasants because the country rests on their back. They are the ones who feel the pain in their backs from such a long history of exploitation. With the Ministry of Agriculture, with agronomists who do not sit behind a desk so that they do not go to the provinces, with all the people who are helping here as much as abroad, with you who are gathering like brothers and sisters, with the Haitian Army to which I take off my hat, congratulations for the work being done.

Together tonight, labor unions, we did not celebrate the 1st of May. We already said that. But we put our arms around the shoulders of the 10th department to ponder the work that the government is doing, the work to be done so that there is freedom and equality, so that equality can really bring jobs. Responsibilities are charges; my responsibility is to work under the Constitution's light so that the people who are roaring today do not mutter against people who are able to create jobs and who will create jobs. *Brothers and sisters of the bourgeoisie, investors of tomorrow, let us be delighted. Your dollar, once more, lives in peace. May you be in peace with your dollar [que la paix du dollar soit avec vous]. May the fear of peace depart from you like an avalanche.*

Alone we are weak; together we are strong; tightly united we are an avalanche! [applause]

Grenada

Bill To Restore Full Judicial Powers Proposed

FL1005005591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2020 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, May 9, CANA—A bill to restore the judicial powers of the Grenada Constitut on to the status of the pre-revolution document was tabled for a first reading in Parliament on Thursday. The 1973 independence Constitution was suspended by the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) in 1979 and was partially restored in 1983 after an American-led invasion to oust the embattled junta.

"Although the Constitution was returned in 1983, the full judicial powers were not returned because of the trial of 19 former government and army officials for the slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop," a court official said. The trial was conducted under the provisions of a revolutionary court established by the PRG.

Reports from the office of the attorney general say a verdict may be forthcoming at the end of May although there has been no confirmation from the three member appeal panel. "We believe the verdict is now being printed although we do not know where or when it will finally come but we believe it will be close to the end of May," one official said.

The governmnent intends to resume links with the judicial system of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the British Privy Council, says attorney general, Dr. Francis Alexis. The bill will prepare the country to both systems.

Jamaica

Government To Pursue Constitutional Reform

FL0905195791 Bridgetown CANA in English 1619 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 9, CANA—The Jamaican Government is to embark on a major review of the country's Constitution with a view to changing some

aspects, Prime Minister Michael Manley has said. At a news conference on Wednesday to "stimulate interest and awareness" on the need for constitutional reforms, Manley outlined the main areas where changes are contemplated.

These include the issue of republican status for the country now an independent monarchy within the British Commonwealth, the type of presidency and how the president is to be elected, whether proportional representation should replace the first past the post system, the role of the Member of Parliament, and the inclusion of a bill of rights in the Constitution.

He said discussions were continuing between the government and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party on the method of choosing a governor general or president in the future. Should this fail the government would be forced to choose the next governor general under the existing constitutional arrangements.

Under the present Constitution, the prime minister nominates whom he wants to be governor general. However opposition leader Edward Seaga has stated that given the expanded role of the governor general in recent years, the opposition must approve of the choice for the post. The Chief Justice Edward Zacca was appointed acting governor general in March when Sir Florizel Glasspole resigned after 17 years in the office.

The issue of constitutional reform will be supervised by a joint select committee of Parliament headed by Justice Minister Carl Rattray. The prime minister appealed to Jamaicans to make "well thought out and prepared presentations" to the committee. Manley said as part of the public education programme, the government will be distributing copies of the Jamaica Constitution as well as preparing simplified versions along with a summary of the issues. The committee will also be visiting communities across the island to allow Jamaicans the widest participation.

Since the late 1970's, constitutional reform has been the subject of discussion by a joint select committee of both houses of Parliament. There have been continuing discussions between both major political parties on the need for reform and they have agreed that Jamaica should move from a monarchical to a republican form of government.

There was however disagreement on whether there should be a ceremonial or executive president and the method of choosing the president. There is also agreement by both parties that the electoral advisory committee, established in 1979 and which oversees the electoral process, should be entrenched in the Constitution.

Government Enters Into Negotiations With IMF

FL0705223091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1954 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 7, CANA—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is pressing Jamaica to shift emphasis from monetary measures to greater use of the exchange rate mechanism to manage domestic demand, financial sources said Tuesday. Jamaica and the Fund are currently negotiating a new economic support agreement to replace a U.S. 105 million dollar arrangement which expired at the end of March. The government was reported in disagreement with the proposal.

According to financial sources, the IMF is insisting that the Jamaica dollar be allowed to find its "appropriate level" and has urged Jamaican authorities to "stop manipulating the exchange rate." The exchange rate on May 6 was nine Jamaica dollars to one U.S. dollar. By allowing the exchange rate to fall, IMF officials said the increased domestic value of the U.S. dollar would discourage high import consumption by Jamaicans.

Some analysts pointed out that if the government chose this route, the prices of basic food items would skyrocket, noting such a development could trigger widespread protests. Experts here are predicting that the exchange rate could plunge to as low as 22 Jamaica dollars to one U.S. dollar by year end. Some analysts forecast the mid-year rate would be 15 Jamaica dollars to the greenback.

Sources said the IMF was also insisting that the government remove the requirement under which commercial banks must sell 50 percent of their foreign exchange to the central bank. The Fund reportedly told the Central Bank that it must buy its foreign exchange on the market like the rest of the country.

Finance Minister Percival Patterson is expected to tell the nation on Thursday when he opens the annual budget debate when negotiations for the new agreement will be completed.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Justice Minister Campbell Resumes Duties

FL0705224091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2047 GMT 7 May 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 7, CANA—St. Vincent's justice minister and attorney-general, Parnel Campbell, resumed duties on Tuesday following a near six week absence recuperating from a heart attack. Campbell, who spent two weeks at the main Kingstown General Hospital in March, was ordered by his doctors to rest for at least one month.

The doctors also advised that his work load be reduced. Prime Minister James Mitchell, in a mini cabinet reshuffle, relieved Campbell of the portfolio of culture which was reassigned to the Ministry of Education under John Horne.

Peruvian President Visits; Agreements Signed

PA0905125491 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] The Mexican Government will give the Peruvian Government technical assistance in the fields of oil exploitation, electric power generation, and public health and social security, while emphasis was placed on a cooperation agreement on issues related to drug trafficking. This was disclosed last night during a dinner hosted by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari for his colleague Alberto Fujimori and the Peruvian president's delegation.

During the meeting that took place at the Los Pinos presidential palace, President Salinas de Gortari voiced his desire to bolster trade relations and economic cooperation with Peru. In this regard, Salinas said that Mexico has an interest in increasing its investment participation in oil exploration and the power generating system. Salinas pointed out the assistance in social security and public health sectors to be furnished by Mexico. He also mentioned the cooperation agreement on drug trafficking signed by the two nations, underscoring their sovereignty.

President Salinas de Gortari noted that now, more than ever, the unity and support of all our nations is necessary, and in this regard he said:

[Begin Salinas recording] Latin American integration is a shared dream in our history that has currently become mandatory. We can progress toward that goal with decisive actions and specific agreements, without the past rhetoric that made promises which, left unfulfilled, created frustration and despair. We now have a new, perhaps unique, opportunity to unite our voices until we are heard; to expand our trade; to be stronger and united to face the new world order. [end recording]

In this regard, Peruvian President Fujimori said that Mexico and his country have a firm vocation for integration that in the future will be the pillars of true and effective Latin American unity.

[Begin Fujimori recording] We do not want changes in the world to take us by surprise. The challenges of these times demand unity, consensus, the joining of efforts and not division among us. Mexico has implemented the necessary structural changes with determination and wisdom. This Mexican decision serves as an example to our nations. In Peru we are following this process closely and with great interest. [end recording]

President Fujimori arrived in Mexico City on 7 May for an official visit. He was received by President Salinas de Gortari in a ceremony that took place at the National Palace's central patio. President Fujimori will continue his official visit today in this capital, where he will be given the keys to the city and declared a distinguished guest. He will start his trip back to Peru at noon today.

Salinas, Fujimori Comment

PY0905143691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 May 91

[Report by correspondent Luis Sotomayor Alarcon from Mexico City—recorded]

[Text] Peru and Mexico today signed a cooperation agreement in the fields of petroleum, social security, and in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari made the announcement at a dinner given in honor of his Peruvian counterpart Alberto Fujimori.

In response, and expressing his satisfaction over the signing of this bilateral cooperation agreement, Fujimori said that it is the result of the strengthened ties between Peru and Mexico. We have a special report on the ceremony by our correspondent in Mexico Luis Sotomayor Alarcon.

[Begin Salinas recording, in progress] ...our water, air, and land, and where cooperation is an essential element, and where the struggle against drug trafficking is equally important. And you, Mr. President, have been conducting an exceptional struggle in this sector.

Your visit has allowed us to sign an important agreement on cooperation to fight, with solidaristic respect for our sovereignty, this evil that jeopardizes the institutions and the health of our youth.

Finally, in response to your proposal, Mr. President, our national petroleum enterprise will actively participate in promoting the development of the petroleum resources that belong to the great Peruvian people.

Ladies and gentlemen: when speaking of Peru, it reminds me of its great historical and cultural wealth, of the splendor of Machu Picchu. Like the Aztecs in Mexico, the Incas were the heirs of an ancient cultural tradition, and the heirs of many peoples. Within our current generations we can find all those traditions, and also those that appeared in a later time.

Today we are being put to the test by the greatness of our peoples and, as in the past, we will triumph. Today, as [Peruvian writer] Cesar Vallejo said, we must speak of hope, following the example of the Indians.

You, Mr. President, decided to talk about hope, and you have done so with the authenticity of a Peruvian who loves his fatherland and who seeks effective and equitable solutions.

Peruvian essayist Gonzalez Prada said that man's moral greatness is measured by his energy to fight obstacles, and we are fighting. We know that the heirs of the Inca will recognize these words as their own. I want you to extend to all Peruvians the affection and friendship of the Mexican people and government.

For the great friendship between Mexico and Peru, for the prosperity of the Peruvian people, and for your own personal fortune, Mr. President Fujimori, and for the fortune of your family, I invite you all to a toast tonight. [applause] [end recording]

His Excellency the President of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, will now take the floor.

[Begin Fujimori recording] Your Excellency, Mr. President of the United Mexican States, Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Thank you very much, Mr. President, not only for your words, but also for what we have achieved and for the pleasant and fruitful circumstances that have characterized my short visit to Mexico. It has been fruitful because of the broad cooperation agreements that were signed here today. I have always felt the warmth that characterizes the Mexican people, who have made me feel at home, as I have felt on many previous occasions.

If there is a country in the world where a Peruvian can feel at home it is Mexico, because its history, its people, its culture, and its institutional process are similar to those of Peru.

Both countries are heirs of an ancient civilization considered to be the highest culture of the old America. And for this reason we can say that we have a similar historical birthplace and that we share an identity on which the old and the modern Latin America is built.

Mr. President, I am leaving very satisfied with the results of the Guadalajara meeting, where I think important groundwork was achieved within the configuration of the Pacific Basin.

I have had the opportunity to present the Peruvian Government's message to the representatives of the member countries and to the many important leaders of the business community I met in Guadalajara.

And of course, I am leaving very satisfied with all the friendly acts and with the goodwill of your government, which I interpret as another step forward in the traditionally good relations between Mexico and Peru.

Our peoples have always been united, regardless of their governments, and today, when blocs of nations are organized throughout the world, united by a common denominator seldom as solid as that existing in the Latin American community, there is no reason to remain separated. Mexico and Peru are countries with a firm integrationist spirit, and I am certain that in the future they will be the pillars of real and effective Latin American unity.

Mr. President, I must tell you, as I said in Guadalajara, that in Peru we are walking toward new objectives, and that the future of the country will depend on these objectives. The economic changes being implemented in Peru imply a categorical split with past practices that turned the state into an excessively controlling organization, with costly expenditures, that interfered with the initiatives of the productive sectors.

We have always been moved by the rules of friendship, brotherhood, and of our affection toward Mexico. We want to continue to act in this manner, Mr. President, and much more under the current circumstances, in which the challenges of the modern world demand that we all liberate ourselves from secular dogmas. It is a mutual task, then, to increase the levels of cultural and scientific cooperation, and to increase economic and commercial exchange between our countries.

For this reason, I want to reconfirm my gratitude over the signing of the cooperation agreements in the fields of petroleum and social security, and for the active participation of the Mexican petroleum enterprise. I also want to express my satisfaction over the signing of the agreement to struggle against drug trafficking.

Let us not allow the changes in the world to catch us off guard. The current situation demands unity, agreement, and joint efforts, not dispersion. Mexico has decisively and intelligently assumed the necessary structural changes, and this should serve as an example to other countries. We Peruvians are following this process with interest and attention.

Mr. President, Peru is living through a number of changes resulting from its vitality as a nation, a large nation, with a variable geography and immense natural resources. With its outstanding culture, Peru is a society that is settling down and readjusting itself, at times with difficulty, but it is a new Peru that is emerging as a result of the combination of several worlds, the combination of several lines of blood. And this is the Peru that the citizens of today are getting ready to receive.

Finally, President Salinas, I want to tell you that it is the desire of the Peruvian Government and people to receive you in our country, to let us express our hospitality to you. We hope that you will visit us very soon. We will be waiting for you with the same warm affection. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

El Salvador

FMLN Sabotages Power System, Demands Rights

PA0905214391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2023 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] San Salvador, 9 May (NOTIMEX)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) today reiterated that it will remain armed because it has not been militarily defeated, and demanded that its right to public and national life be guaranteed.

In statements to a local radio station, Commander Jorge Melendez (Jonas) said that the FMLN cannot demand the army's surrender at the negotiating table because there is a "military draw," therefore, "neither side can demand from the other advantages that it does not have."

Jonas said that from the FMLN point of view, it is a matter of ending the war to move into political life, for which there must be freedom of expression and an opening for absolutely all types of thought. He stressed the importance of giving the entire political opposition access to the media so that the insurgents' incorporation into civilian life can become real.

According to Melendez, this would guarantee a definitive cease- fire, otherwise "[words indistinct] by mid-May a new round of peace negotiations at which the main topics will be the cease-fire and the Armed Forces' reorganization.

This is the second official statement issued by the FMLN over the past three days, and it further explains the rebels' position, which is to demand that the legislative assembly ratify the constitutional reforms before it will agree to a cease-fire.

Melendez said that the FMLN is still maintaining its "territoriality," and he explained that this "is not an effort to divide the country, but instead to have the region's status quo respected."

President Alfredo Cristiani's government maintains that the constitutional reforms approved as a result of the Mexico agreements will not be ratified if a cease-fire is not achieved first.

Attacks Continue, Dam Sabotaged

PA0905172691 Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] San Salvador, 9 May (AFP)—Official sources have reported that the Salvadoran guerrillas today attacked the 5 November Hydroelectric Central in northern Chalatanango Department, causing at least four deaths and worsening electricity rationing in the capital city.

The Army's press office pointed out that the rebels began their attack with mortars and rifle fire at 0220 (0820 GMT). The office added that the attack lasted two hours and left a toll of two soldiers dead and four wounded, while two guerrillas were also killed and "several" were wounded.

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) claimed that government troops sustained 32 dead or wounded during the attack on the 5 November Dam, located 81 km north of the city of San Salvador. According to the FMLN report, the rebel attack caused "heavy damage" to the high-voltage transformers, but the military denied this. However, the authorities today increased to seven hours the periods of electricity rationing in San Salvador. Up until yesterday, these rationing periods resulting from guerrilla sabotage lasted six hours.

Last night, the FMLN began attacking National Guard outposts in the western part of the capital city, damaging a military building but causing no casualties.

At the same time, the rebels attacked the Civil Defense post in Aguilares, and the First Detachment outpost in the outskirts of Chalatenango, capital of Chalatenango Department.

Today rebel columns also occupied the towns of La Reina, Dulce Nombre de Maria, San Ignacio, La Palma, and Concepcion Quezaltepeque, all in Chalatenango, the FMLN reported.

Meanwhile, other clashes were reported in Morazan Department where two soldiers of the 4th Detachment were killed today and two were injured.

Hostilities between the guerrillas and the Army have intensified over the past 48 hours while delegations from President Alfredo Cristiani's government and the FMLN are preparing to negotiate next week a cease-fire that will allow an end to 11 years of a civil war.

Power Rationing in Capital

PA1005120591 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Earlier today, guerrillas destroyed five primary electricity lines. As a result of this attack, the energy shortage has increased.

Sources from the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission [CEL] have confirmed that this morning elements from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front rendered useless five primary 115,000-volt lines, thus negatively affecting San Salvador Department and the country's western region.

In light of the situation, CEL has again resorted to rationing electricity for six or seven hours throughout the country, with a special emphasis on the capital.

This morning, only the downtown area of San Salvador and the industrial zones of Soyapango, Santa Tecla, and San Bartolo had electricity.

Cristiani Calls Acts 'Irrational'

PA1005120491 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani today accused the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] of boycotting the preliminary session of the direct dialogue meeting between the government and the rebels that was scheduled for this week.

Cristiani, who described the rebels' sabotage of the electric network as irrational, said that the incidents of FMLN violence do not allow the government and rebel delegates to hold a preliminary session for the next direct meeting between the two sides, which is scheduled for the second half of this month.

[Begin Cristiani recording] I very much regret the fact that there are situations delaying the process. The Mexico Agreement clearly states that there should be a meeting in the first week of May. The FMLN boycotted that. It was not possible to hold that meeting. We will present a position stating that it is no longer acceptable for this process to be delayed since there is no justification. What we want is a little bit of seriousness. We want them to respect the very agreement they just signed.

The agreement the government made in Mexico was to promote the reforms that emerged from the Mexico meeting before the Legislative Assembly. I believe you are witnesses to that. I am sure the United Nations can bear witness to the fact that we have done everything possible to promote the reforms that were agreed on in Mexico.

I repeat, the FMLN must accept that they cannot impose their will. This process is supposed to seek the great consensus that will allow all of us in the country to live in peace and tranquility. In that sense, the FMLN has no right to try to impose anything. That is why it is called negotiation and not imposition.

Second of all, the FMLN has the right to go to the United Nations and make all the noise it wants. However, I believe that it is totally unjustified. The bottom line is already in the agreement by the previous Legislative Assembly, and we cannot understand why this should undermine the process.

The government has complied with its commitments and, in this regard, let us hope that the FMLN thinks it over and allows the process to continue once and for all. The process will try to seek the original objective of the meetings which, I would like to clarify, have not ended. They were interrupted, as is stated in the Mexico Agreement.

The meeting will continue after a temporary suspension. If you read the Mexico Agreement carefully, the meeting is to continue, but now the FMLN is trying to boycott that plan.

In that sense, we believe that there is no time now to try to make an advertising campaign based on talking whimsically about things that are simply not true. [end recording]

The president rejected any argument from the FMLN regarding their continuing sabotage attacks against the electric network saying that the people most affected by the sabotage are the ones who see their interests being damaged.

Cristiani explained that the parties agreed in Mexico that the advances of this meeting should be complemented in the meeting scheduled for the second half of this month in which they will try to sign an overall agreement on the topics of the Armed Forces, cease-fire, and constitutional reforms.

President Cristiani added that the Mexico Agreement states that the constitutional reforms will be ratified simultaneously with the signature of a cease-fire agreement.

President Cristiani made these statements during an impromptu news conference at the Legislative Assembly building where he was a guest at its first session of that state organ.

Government Concessions Demanded

PA0905195391 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0138 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] San Salvador, 8 May (DPA)—Joel Sanchez Ramirez, a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrilla leader, has stated, from somewhere on a mountain close to San Salvador, that the FMLN will not grant a cease-fire if the Alfredo Cristiani government grants nothing in return.

Ramirez, one of the leaders of the Modesto Ramirez Front Joint Command, which operates in the country's paracentral zone, made the remarks to newsmen somewhere in Guazapa, 28 km from the capital.

"This is controlled territory," the commander said, while patting a few peasant children on the head. Far away, the Salvadoran Army's artillery fire could be heard.

He explained that the enemy is being fought strongly in Guazapa Mountain's southern region, in rural San Jose Guayabal Municipality, Cuscatlan Department. The fighting goes on almost all day long and begins to wind down at 1700," the rebel chief said.

The situation in the mountains's northern area is different, and the FMLN holds military and political control, he explained, noting that General Rene Emilio Ponce, defense and public security minister, does not want to admit reality.

Enough Evidence Exists for Trial in Jesuit Case

PA1005041891 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 May 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The nine military officers arrested in connection with the Jesuits' case were deprived of the right to file a habeas corpus writ when the Supreme Court of Justice ruled today that their demands are inadmissable. Thus, the Supreme Court of Justice ruled that there is enough evidence for the accused officers to stand trial.

The constitutional court presented its final report confirming that the arrest of Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides and eight military officers—in connection with the murder of six Jesuit priests and two maids—is legal. The ruling is based on the report that Judge Salvador Urrutia presented after analyzing the case.

Based on the testimony of one of the accused men against the other, and the depositions signed by Generals Rene Emilio Ponce and Orlando Zepeda, the Supreme Court of Justice ruled that the accused men must stand trial for murder and acts of terrorism. The ruling also orders Colonel Camilo Hernandez to be prosecuted for complicity. This means that Judge Ricardo Zamora must impose a sentence that should not exceed three years. Camilo Hernandez is also eligible for parole.

[Unidentified speaker] "The judge's decision is final and the penal process against the accused will continue for the crimes they are charged with. Regarding Carlos Camilo Hernandez, who is charged with complicity, the proceedings must continue—although there is an order for his release—because there is enough evidence against him."

The reaction of the defense lawyers was swift. Lawyer Joaquin Barahona said the ruling against his defendants is the clear result of pressure on an international level, and it is illegal.

[Barahona] "Pressure has been exerted on the international level. This is no longer a legal process; it has become a political process. The evidence against Col. Benavides does not justify his incarceration because it is all based on presumptions, and because he is commander of a military unit. In addition, he has been incarcerated based on the testimony of one accused against another. The law is quite clear about this. Article 499A of the penal code stipulates that—how can I explain—one accused person cannot testify against another. The testimony is not valid."

The defense lawyer lambasted the role played by private lawyers, who said that the military high command participated in the murders. Barahona said that the lawyers may be tried for slander.

[Barahona] "How can they think...[changes thought] What kind of sick mind can think that a legally structured military corps can participate in a crime. We are displeased with the attitude of these people. Let us remember that at first these people worked for the prosecution, but then they saw their selfish interests, meaning their economic interests, were not being satisfied. Therefore, they had no qualms about selling...[changes thought] about saying anything to gain—What? Prestige?"

Following the Supreme Court of Justice's ruling, the Jesuit case will be sent to the 4th Penal Court, where the legal proceedings will continue until a public trial is held—in approximately two or three months.

Guatemala

Government Downplays New Clandestine Group

PA0905234991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1457 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government and opposition political leaders today downplayed the importance of the pro-Marxist New Guatemalan Revolutionary Movement (NMRG), which revealed itself on 8 May and warned that it will execute President Jorge Serrano and the country's last six presidents.

Gonzalo Asturias, the government's spokesman and a member of the Solidarity Action Movement (MAS), does not believe that the clandestine organization even exists. He says that the NMRG document published in the press on 8 May is "apocryphal," possibly a joke in poor taste by certain people.

According to the communique, the organization operates in northwestern San Marcos Department.

Nevertheless, Asturias told ACAN-EFE that "there is no time or place for new wars," because all of the sectors in the world which at one time or another were at odds are now reaching peace agreements.

The NMRG threatened to physically eliminate "all of the people's current and past murderers," among whom it mentioned President Jorge Serrano and the country's last six presidents.

They also randomly named the deputies of the Legislative Congress for "their abuses, deals, and complicity in the government's corruption."

Juan Jose Rodil, a centrist deputy and former government minister, said, "I see very little seriousness in the emergence of an allegedly new revolutionary group."

"It seems demagogic and ridiculous for one of those organizations to emerge so suddenly and anonymously," the deputy said, adding that the threat "could have been made by a dissident Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) group or by extreme right-wingers to discourage dialogue with the government."

Nevertheless, Rodil pointed out that the document could also have been issued by a small group in an effort to obstruct peace negotiations between the guerrillas and Serrano's administration.

Correction To Clandestine Group Communique

PA0905232091

The following correction pertains to the item "Clandestrine Group NMRG Issues Communique," published in the 9 May Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 11.

Column one, paragraph three, last sentence, make read:...NMRG High Command." ...(supplying closing quotation marks)

Column two, paragraph one, sentences one and two, make read:...that "the origin (one of many, but the main one) of the problem in our country is the existence of the Army, which must be cut at the root, physically eliminating all the present and past assassins of the people who will not be pardoned this time. We will execute Peralta Azurdia, Arana Osorio, Laugerud, Lucas Garcia, Rios Montt, Mejia Victores, Chupina Barahona, Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, etc., not to mention other liberationists [National Liberation Movement members], supporters of the UCN [Union of the National Center], etc." [new graf]

"This includes," it...(rewording)

Page 12, column one, paragraph one, sentence two, make read:...time comes) from being further discredited, and to allow...(rewording)

Same column, paragraph two, sentence one, make read:...informative as well as constructive functions. An individual like Hugo Arce, who seemingly is attacking the government, is merely discrediting the press. (The fact is...(rewording)

Honduras

Labor Leaders Criticize Callejas Economic Policy

PA0905134891 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 2 May 91 p 4

[Article by Manuel Santiago Cerna]

[Text] San Pedro Sula—In a public statement during the Labor Day commemoration in this city and in the presence of thousands of workers, the organizations that comprise the Struggle for Honduras Democratization Platform yesterday accused President Rafael Leonardo Callejas of being a dictator and a liar and of imposing on the people the will of international money-lending organizations.

The document was read in three parts, each by a different leader. The readers were Mario Quintanilla, president of the Trade Union Federation of National Honduran Workers (Fesitranh); Efrain Aguilar, of the United Federation of Honduran Workers (FUTH), and Francisco Ramos of the Coordinating Committee of Peasants Organizations (Cococh).

The union leaders stated that the Labor Day commemoration served as a framework "for reporting abuses and demanding solutions, as well as for proposing national and patriotic alternatives to the crisis, so that workers can look to the future with optimism because they have the right to govern and save the homeland from disaster."

They outlined the vast changes that have taken place around the world, which are not alien to Honduras. "Now that the Cold War, which kept the big powers in covert confrontation, is over, there is detente marked by a search for negotiated political solutions to the main regional and local conflicts. It is sad that this has not been the case in Panama and Iraq, where imperial power prevailed."

The Platform condemned the policy of the current nationalist government, which implements measures that contradict the changes around the world. To implement these measures, the government has taken advantage of both its control over the three powers of the state and the support of the Armed Forces, private enterprise, and neo-conservative forces.

"While detente is mentioned both locally and on the international level, in most cases the opposite is true in Honduras, as if the purpose were to lead us to confrontations like those that we are all trying to end in the region."

In this context, the labor leaders criticized President Callejas, whom they described as a good talker but someone who does not like to negotiate when it will benefit the great marginal sectors of the population.

"Callejas likes to talk but not to negotiate. Up to now, he has succeeded in imposing his will—which happens to be the will of the IMF, the World Bank, and the Agency for International Development."

The labor leaders criticized the constant increases in the prices of basic food products, medicines, electrical energy, and school materials, as well as the currency devaluation and constant foreign indebtedness, pointing out that the Honduran people are dealing with "a dictatorship. Callejas is a dictator disguised as a democrat."

With regard to subsidies for the business sector, which were allegedly eliminated during the current administration, the Platform considers them "one more of this government's lies."

We know that "the government lies when it says that the subsidies have been eliminated because devaluation, price liberalization, and rising bank interest rates are where the subsidies come from. There has never before been so many subsidies. Meanwhile, the small- and medium-sized business owners are being destroyed and forced to swell the ranks of the unemployed."

"This government lies when it says it is solving the problem of the poor, disregarding the fact that a number of social improvements are the result of the workers' struggle and not a gift from nationalists or liberals. The government lies when it tries to pretend that the problems of the poor can be solved with a small notebook for a poor child, with a sheet of zinc for the roof of a cardboard hut, with the deceiving 20 lempiras for a single mother, and the FHIS [Honduran Social Investment Fund] signs—which are nothing more than a millionaire cobbler [un millonario zapatero remendon]."

The statement added: "The platform condemns the eagerness of the current nationalist government to obtain the $600 million promised by the international financing agencies."

"This $600 million will increase the country's foreign debt and decrease the health budget just when we expect the arrival of the cholera epidemic. In addition, the education budget will be reduced at a time when there are 25,000 teachers without jobs, a large number of school dropouts, and a high percentage of illiteracy."

Perhaps the coyotes of the international financing agencies want us to have even less education, the labor leaders wondered.

Referring to Agrarian Reform, they said their graves are being dug with the Law of Municipalities, which does away with the National Agrarian Institute, which deals with communal land. The leaders stated that the government has presented the liberalization of prices as the great solution to the production stagnation "while it is difficult or even impossible for the small- and medium-sized business owners and landless peasants to produce under the new prevailing circumstances."

The labor leaders also asked the government not to let the Olanchito Agricultural Cooperatives disappear, as happened to Isletas, "because the national patrimony would be taken away from us and the economy's social sector would be restricted."

The leaders also held the government responsible for food vulnerability and the increased dependency, which deals a harsh blow on the country's culture "by encouraging the importation of large quantities of surplus basic grain from developed countries and leaving unprotected the small- and medium-sized producers and cooperatives."

Finally, the Platform stressed "the country's democratization, which should not be limited to the elections held every four years, elections that only serve to lend a legal basis to the distribution of the bounty that the national budget has become for the oligarchic sectors."

"Honduras needs to democratize the economy and social, political, and cultural life. The amnesty, which should be general, broad, and unconditional, is a democratic demand that cannot be put off. The political refugees can return to the country, but political prisoners should also be released."

The organizations that comprise the Platform have pledged to keep struggling to control the price of the family basket, for the adjustment and general increase of salaries, and for the revision of the minimum salary, as well as for respect for union freedom, the nonprivatization of state-owned enterprises, and rejection of the electrical energy rate increase.

Nicaragua

Northern Group To Proclaim Godoy President

PA0905185691 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] It has been reported from Matagalpa that 600 armed men are heading toward La Patriota, near Matiguas, where they plan to proclaim Dr. Virgilio Godoy president of the Republic and demand the dismissals of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Antonio Lacayo, and General Humberto Ortega Saavedra.

The latest reports from Matagalpa indicate that the approximately 600 armed men, including 300 who left from Cerro Verde under the leadership of Jonda Lopez, within the next few hours might take over the town of La Patriota, where they will proclaim Virgilio Godoy Reyes president. The other 300 men are moving in the area of El Guapotal and Sila Grande under the leadership of a chieftain known as Agua.

Gaspar Gutierrez, a cattle rancher, charged that on the night of 7 May, some of those men attacked his ranch. The men told Gutierrez' workers that they were planning to take over La Patriota within the next few hours to demand the resignations of President Barrios de Chamorro, Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo, and Army Chief Humberto Ortega Saavedra.

Other reports add that Matiguas Mayor Carlos Montoya is one of the instigators of the takeover of La Patriota, and that he has met with individuals who are reorganizing the demobilized fighters in Region Six.

About 300 heavily-armed men wearing blue uniforms are mobilizing in the Central Zelaya area, according to residents of that area. A report from Matagalpa says that peasants living in the area called La Paila yesterday requested protection from the Rio Blanco authorities. The peasants state that the 300 men armed with various types of weapons are wearing the same uniforms as the former Nicaragua Democratic Forces, FDN, founded by Somozist Guard Enrique Bermudez in Honduras with U.S. money. The peasants added that these former fighters, new contras [recontras] or nonconformists, have moved to various places, such as Guasayamba, Copalar, San Pedro del Norte, and La Sirena, about 400 km northeast of Managua.

The reports presented to the Rio Blanco authorities add that the rebels have paralyzed transportation and are robbing vehicle drivers and passengers of their valuables, money, and supplies. The fact that these

individuals are heavily armed and wearing blue uniforms leads one to believe that they are not mere groups of individuals organized to rob people or make demands of the government.

Groups Result From Social Needs

PA1005044591 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 May 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The government confirmed that the existence of small armed groups in the mountains in the northern part of the country is not a problem of possible military confrontation, but of social and economic demands. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said this in the morning when he appeared before the National Assembly's Human Rights and Peace Commission. He stressed that the response will be economic and not military.

A government commission that traveled to the north confirmed the existence of small armed groups that are demanding a solution to their social and economic problems. These groups, which are scattered over several areas, are made up of demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, the Army, and persons who have entered the country without any kind of protection.

Lacayo was accompanied by Major General Joaquin Cuadra and former contra commander Israel Galeano, also known as Franklin.

Up to this moment, the possibility of a war breaking out has been ruled out.

[Lacayo] [Words indistinct] "What we have here is the sequel to a war and a very harsh economic situation through which this country has passed."

[Galeano] "We are touring the municipalities with representatives from the different ministries to evaluate the situation and determine how the government can create an emergency plan to send supplies and materials for these persons."

[Lacayo] "There are some foreign cooperation programs through which some things, such as tools and agricultural supplies, can be sent to these places immediately. We will continue to work in that direction."

The Army's investigations have determined that there are political parties that want to take advantage of the poverty of these armed groups to make them confront the government.

[Cuadra] "There have also been some political interests on the part of some persons in some sectors who have tried to egg on this group but, fundamentally, this is not a serious problem."

The parliament's commission agreed with the government that the problem is not a military but an economic one and that the response should be material aid.

Government Creates Standard of Living Commission

PA0905161291 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1340 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The National Standard of Living Commission has been officially created as a result of the agreements included in the 13 March communique, which calls for the revision of the purchasing power of the central government's lowest salaries. The creation of this commission is within the framework of social and economic agreements that recognize the need to implement a stabilization and adjustment plan that will lower the rate of inflation to levels that will rebuild the people's confidence at all levels of society. Representatives of the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], Conapro [Confederation of Nicaraguan Professional Associations], the National Federation of Heroes and Martyrs, the unions of ENCAFE [Nicaraguan Coffee Enterprise], and the International Foundation for Overall Economic Development [Fundacion Internacional Para el Desarrollo Economico Global], FIDEG comprise the commission.

Commission member Francisco Rosales read Presidential Agreement No. 116-91 that creates the National Standard of Living Commission.

[Begin Rosales recording] [In progress]....the following agreement for the creation of the National Standard of Living Commission:

Article 1. The National Standard of Living Commission is hereby created as an advisory body to the Presidency, through the Economy and Development Ministry to which it will be assigned. The commission will act in accordance with the guidelines established herein and be subject to the pertinent authorities as determined by this agreement or its regulations.

Article 2. A board of directors will be responsible for the administration and representation of the commission, and will be formed by the minister of economy and development or his representative who will head the commission; the minister of labor or his representative; a representative of the Workers Permanent Congress, CPT; a representative of the National Workers' Front, FNT; a representative of the UNAG; the last person to hold the post of the minister of economy during the previous administration; a representative of the Nicaraguan private sector; and a representative of the political parties that comprise the National Opposition Union, UNO. These latter two members of the Board of Directors will be appointed by the president of the republic.

The chairman and the board of directors may also invite to the board's meetings, when they deem it necessary, those persons who can contribute further information or clarification for members of the board.

Article 3. Regional, departmental, and municipal standard of living commissions may be established, the

composition and responsibilities of which will be determined by the regulations issued by the minister of economy and development.

Article 4. The main purpose of the commission will be to conduct proper scientific investigation of the price of staple item packages available at each of the government's agencies and to study the contents and composition of these packages.

Article 5. The commission will hold its meetings in Managua whenever its chairman deems necessary, by means of a summons. The presence of a majority of the commission's members will constitute a quorum and its decisions will be adopted with the vote of at least four of its members.

Article 6. The provisions herein are complementary in nature and must be interpreted without prejudice for the scope and authority attributed by law to any other government agencies.

Article 7. This agreement will go into effect as of the date of its publication in the media, notwithstanding its publication at a later date in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. These accords will be implemented even though corresponding regulations have not yet been issued, which will occur when the economy and development minister deems it necessary.

[Dated] Presidency Palace, Managua, 26 April 1991.

[Signed] President Violeta Chamorro.

Godoy: Humberto Ortega 'Misrepresenting History'

PA0905201091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1912 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Managua, 9 May (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy today claimed that Army Chief General Humberto Ortega is "misrepresenting history." Gen. Ortega accused him of instigating former "contras" to rebel against the government.

After opening the third meeting of congress presidents of Central American and Panama, Godoy said that Gen. Ortega's charges against him were intended to "keep him in the limelight" of Nicaraguan society.

The Army chief on 4 May accused Godoy and Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman of inciting former rebels to take up weapons again to resume the war in Nicaragua, for the purpose of destabilizing the government of Violeta Chamorro.

The Nicaraguan vice president dismissed the importance of Ortega's statements in that sense to local and foreign newsmen and said that the Sandinist general likes to "falsify reality and make up stories."

He said that the reports published by the Sandinist opposition press on the alleged reappearance of the former "contras" in the mountains of the country are filled with "contradictions and confusion."

Godoy explained that when the alleged revolt of former rebels took place in the Nicaraguan mountains he was in Europe and therefore was surprised by the charges.

"Apparently, I had the ability to direct things from Europe and am directing all the moves from my office," Godoy said, referring to the statements made by General Ortega that the vice president is "behind" the rebel revolt.

The former "contras" delivered their weapons in mid-1990 to the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in exchange for the government's promise to turn over land.

Godoy also criticized Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo, whom he blamed for the existing tension in the countryside. He accused him of "manipulating the poor."

The Nicaraguan vice president said that Gen. Ortega and Lacayo, son-in-law of President Chamorro, are "partners" and said that the two of them are "one and the same."

In a separate interview granted to newsmen, Lacayo said that "it is easy to find who to blame." He noted that the government is making a major effort to fight inflation and poverty in Nicaragua.

Rearming of Contras in North Denied

PA1005002191 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2321 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Ivan Salvador Madrid, member of the National Assembly's Commission for Human Rights and Peace, has reported that Commander Joaquin Cuadra of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], Commander Franklin of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo have discounted the alleged rearming of the RN in the country's north. Madrid said, however, that the former RN members' economic situation has been verified and this is why there is pressure on the government to make good on its pledges. This is what Madrid had to say:

[Begin recording] [Madrid] This morning the Commission for Human Rights and Peace invited Lacayo, Commander Franklin, and Commander Cuadra to explain the situation in the north, which the media has been describing as the beginning of a new war. The leaders explained clearly that the economic situation is behind the unrest and that both the demobilized RN members and the dismissed EPS soldiers are demanding a better economic situation and the government's compliance regarding promises made to them. The crisis is seriously affecting these two groups. Consequently, they have become restless and are turning into pressure groups, not groups bent on rearming or resuming the war. This situation could damage our government and the country

overall because if our image abroad is one of instability and war, international organizations would not be willing to aid Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Do you think that the Sandinist National Liberation Front is behind the attempt to hamper the negotiations at the Paris meeting?

[Madrid] I don't think so, because both Cuadra and Franklin agree that these people are just trying to pressure the government into making good on its pledges to solve their economic problems. [end recording]

Presence of Armed Contras, Weapons Reported

PA1005013991

[Editorial Report] Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 8 May on page 1 and 12 carries a 650-word report on remarks by Rodolfo Ampie, a former contra and now leader of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] Civic Association, who denies that the contras are being supplied by Honduras. Ampie says: "Since we laid down our weapons, we are no longer interested in armed confrontations. We only want to work and produce within the law." "Nevertheless," Ampie says, "many people are afraid because they are being threatened; the police are on the loose, and the battalions of the Sandinist People's Army are acting as though there is a war."

Although he did not discount the existence of weapons cache in the mountains, Ampie said that "this does not mean that government stability is in danger." Finally, the report says that the Honduran Government has flatly denied airdropping supplies to contras in northern Nicaragua, and that the top RN leaders, Oscar Sovalbarro and Israel Galeano, have been called to appear at the Nicaraguan national assembly to report on the situation of the demobilized contras.

EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish on 8 May on pages 1 and 8 carries a 1000-word report which says that Roberto Menendez, a ranking official of the International Commission for Support and Verification [CIAV], has told the Human Rights Commission, headed by Luis Enrique Figueroa, that demobilized contras have begun rearming. Figueroa told EL NUEVO DIARIO that the contra rearming "is cause for concern because no one wants war." He said that the commission has visited the places where problems with these contras have occurred and he added that there are plans to meet with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, Army Chief Humberto Ortega, and the minister of the government. At the assembly, National Opposition Union deputy Daniel Blandon denied that politicians are inciting the RN members. Recently, the top RN leader, Israel Galeano, said that the government's pledges to the demobilized peasants "ended up being cosmetic measures designed for foreign consumption."

In addition, Frank Cesar, spokesman for the government ministry, said, in reference to the existence of the so-called once-again contras in region 4, that "there are no armed organizations as such, but the presence of armed groups is worrisome." He also admitted to the existence of arms caches but denied that the country's stability was threatened.

EL NUEVO DIARIO, on the same day, on page 6 carries a 600-word article by Gilberto Rodriguez and Henry Vargas which says that approximately 500 former contras have rearmed in Region 1 to pressure the government of President Violeta Chamorro into complying with the pledges that it signed. The report adds that, according to military sources, the contras are planning to take over the police garrisons at Jalapa, Quilali, Jicaro, Murra, and San Juan de Rio Coco.

The military sources said that the rebels are operating in Guana, La Palanca, Santa Rita, and elsewhere, and that they are armed with AK-47 rifles and RPG-7 and M-79 rocket launchers taken from the caches left by the contras before they demobilized. The rebels reportedly are headed by Encarnacion Valdivia, aka "Tigrillo," and his brother Dimas; both are headquartered at El Cua, Jinotega. It was reported in Jalapa that the rebels are backed by the Let's Save Democracy Movement and the United Association for Democracy and Freedom, which is made up of politicians related to Vice President Virgilio Godoy.

Report on Land Conflicts in Masaya, Matagalpa

PA1005001791

[Editorial Report] Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 8 May on pages 1 and 12 publishes a 600-word report on the struggle for houses and land that recently took place in Masaya. The newspaper notes that on 7 May, around 1500, several masked residents took over the Housing Development Bank. Employees were ousted and the offices were closed. The article says that 15 minutes later hundreds of residents showed up in support of the action. According to the article, the community was protesting because the bank manager, Luis Garcia, had not issued promised land deeds.

The article adds that the people put up signs protesting the repeal of laws 85 and 86, under which thousands of families had obtained land and houses from the previous revolutionary government. The article quotes a resident of the Ulises Tapia neighborhood: "There are around 4,000 families that have land and approximately 350 homes were transferred to them by the revolutionary government under laws 85 and 86." According to the article, the conflict started when the bank manager and the mayor, Sebastian Putoy, announced by loud speaker that the residents of the some neighborhoods would have to pay between $200 to $500 for each land grant, or pay a monthly rate, as the residents did not own the land. The article concludes quoting a resident who urged all those residents threatened by the repeal of laws 85 and 86 to join and defend what rightly belongs to them, under the constitution.

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish on 7 May on pages 1 and 8 carries a 600-word report on the takeover of the mayor's office in Masaya on 6 May by armed and retired Sandinist People's Army members who demanded land to construct their houses. According to the article, the retired soldiers occupied the office for 15 minutes until the police—who, according to a municipal worker, were prepared for the event—arrived and calmed them down. The article says that mayor Sebastian Putoy was to speak with the retired soldiers this morning. The results of the meeting are not known yet.

The same item reports on the take over of the Matagalpa mayor's office on 6 May by armed persons who, according to mayor Frank Lanza, were members of a military organization with retired soldiers only and not demobilized Nicaraguan Resistance members. The article quotes Lanza, who was asked by the retired soldiers not to repeal laws 85 and 86, as saying: "I told them that we could talk about anything but those laws, because as a mayor, I have nothing to do with that." The article concludes by reporting that mayor Lanza will be giving the land grants to the retired military personnel this morning, in agreement with what had been provided for several months ago.

Officials Discuss Economic Policy Progress

PA0905154191 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 7 May 91

[Statements by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, Central Bank President Raul Lacayo, and Pablo Young, president of the Emergency Fund for Social Investments Administrative Council, in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [A. Lacayo] Good evening, Nicaraguan brothers in urban and rural areas, on 3 March, the government launched the economic stabilization plan called "Up With the Cordoba" ["Vamos al Cordoba"]. Because the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro government was elected by the people in last year's elections to bring peace to Nicaragua and overcome the economic crisis the country was floundering in, and in view of the different agreements the government made—specifically the Economic and Social Concerted Agreement—we had pledged to eliminate hyperinflation.

At that time we realized that all Nicaraguans had to make a sacrifice to overcome the terrible illness of new devaluations that frightened us every day and that made life practically unbearable. We had to make a sacrifice and we did. Today, 7 May, a little over two months since the implementation of the stabilization program, when we have gone nine weeks without a devaluation, we basically wanted to share with you—farmers, businessmen, industrialists, workers, housewives, students, and the people in general—government data that we believe must made be available to you so you can judge for yourselves the progress we are making in this economic stabilization program. We feel that we have begun in a positive manner. We think we are on the right course. [Passage omitted]

It is worth noting that as weeks go by, the weekly inflation rate is decreasing. At this point we want to tell you about variations in the consumer price index from October to November 1987. Here we see that in the weeks prior to the stabilization plan, that is in January, there were certain inflation levels every week. The same goes for February. Inflation fluctuated every week from 10 to 20 percent. Sometimes the figure was a little lower. This chart shows the price increase for the week of 4 March. This was in the first week of March, when the plan was announced, and in the second week. Henceforth, as we see on this chart, there is basically no increase, except for the first week in April, which is when people begin to pay their water and energy bills for March, since they always pay for the previous month. If it were not for that, which will not take place henceforth because rates will not rise in the next months, we see there is no week where the inflation rate reaches 2 percent.

As I said before, this means that in April, and allowing for this factor regarding the rates, inflation for the entire month was a little less than 5 percent. The positive trend was that as the month ended, this curve came down more and more. Since the inflation rate in April was close to 5 percent, this may mean the inflation rate in May will be approximately 5 percent. This figure is encouraging. Talking with World Bank authorities, I learned they were pleasantly surprised that a country that had had a hyperinflation rate for 38 consecutive months, averaging 50 percent a month, could have, almost overnight, a month like April with an inflation rate as low as this one. Although this is encouraging, it does not mean we have solved the problem. It does mean we are on the right track. [Passage omitted]

[R. Lacayo] I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to invite Nicaraguans to continue supporting the 30-day plan in May. The 20 percent interest rate given by the Central Bank to those Nicaraguans that get certificates this month is very high. Those interest rates seek to encourage savings, to reintroduce the topic of savings into the people's daily conversations, to obtain money that is not strictly necessary for daily survival, and to be able to give credit to farmers and to those who need it. I have heard a rumor that there will be a devaluation on 22 May. There are always pessimistic, unpatriotic, and alarmist people who, instead of seeing how the country is making progress, are always inventing new problems. Last month we invited Nicaraguans to join this plan, and many people will begin to receive their savings, with a 25 percent interest earned in the past 30 days. [Passage omitted]

Today we are going to show you documents that prove that actions promoted by the government to date have yielded the expected results. First, we have a document

signed by President Chamorro and by AID officials—on behalf of the U.S. Government—when she went to Washington on 27 April. In this document, the United States expresses its intention to provide considerable support for the economic stabilization plan recently announced, the document reads, by the Nicaraguan Government. To that effect, the U.S. Government pledges to provide $135 million to the Nicaraguan Government, in support of the balance of payment.

We informed Nicaraguans about this matter earlier, but it is just now that we have received a copy of this important document. Bureaucratic procedures take time, but today this document is at the disposal of the Central Bank so that bank can issue (?clean) bills throughout the year, that means with the backing of these $135 million.

We also have here a document from the ambassador of the Republic of China [Republica de China]. It is addressed to His Excellency Dr. Raul Lacayo, minister president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua, and is dated 22 April. In that letter he tells me that on 24 April, $60 million would be deposited in a New York City bank where the Central Bank of Nicaragua has an account. This money complements the $135 million promised by the United States to completely guarantee Nicaragua's economic stabilization progam. We have here a photocopy of the document showing that these funds have already been transferred and are now at the disposal of the Central Bank of Nicaragua. The idea is not that we spend all this money on food in May or that we forget about the stabilization program to enjoy for one month what should last the rest of the year. I am reporting these funds because, as you realize that the funds are available to the program and that the parts are falling into place, your trust in this plan will increase and this will benefit all Nicaraguans.

Because of the certainty that these funds provide for the government, we have not issued any unbacked currency since the end of January, just as we told you on 3 March. That is, the Central Bank of Nicaragua has not issued any unbacked bill since then. It is good for you to know this because this gives you cause for reassurance. [passage omitted]

In our current phase we will prepare our land, devote ourselves to our work, and sow the land. As I have said, 1991 is a year of stabilization. In 1992 we will begin to reap some of the fruits of this plan and Nicaragua will begin to grow economically. Right now we are simply reversing our economy's tendency to drop more and more every year. This year the dropping will stop, we will stabilize, and next year we will begin to grow. Thus, we must remain united; this is a time for unity and for looking at our situation from the viewpoint that it is the responsibility of all Nicaraguans because it is a national plan. Inflation, as I said some time ago, is particularly hard on wage earners, the poorest people, regardless of their political leanings. It simply affects all of them. This is why the elimination of inflation will benefit everyone, regardless of their political tendencies.

I would like to emphasize that this program is possible because of many factors, among them the participation of honest, patriotic merchants, industrialists, builders, and farmers, who have worked hard to make this plan the success we all desire. It has also been possible because of the workers' confidence and sacrifices. I know that the workers are aware that this will be advantageous for them; they know it will be difficult, especially for the first few weeks. This program has also been possible, basically because all Nicaraguans have participated in the effort.

When the housewives purchase produce they ask for lower prices and compare prices. Honest vendors are now trying to charge fair prices because they know there will be no devaluations or surprises, and they can save their money. This is why the cordoba is worth something today. At the time of the "Up With the Cordoba" program, I said that there were three currencies circulating in our economy; however, we are rapidly approaching the point where we will have one currency in our wallets. The old bills have been left behind and we are also gradually forgetting the dollar as we gain confidence in the program. However, we can maintain this situation only if we continue to save, pay our taxes and bills, pay our bank credits, and most of all respect the constitution and laws.

If, as I have said on numerous occasions, we must respect the right to strike, we must also respect the right to work. We can civically express our disagreements with the plan without ever threatening other people's rights. If we stick to our plan, I am sure Nicaragua will succeed. If we stick to our plan, I am sure that a solution—which will not fall from the sky—will soon be found. The solution is in our hands.

With the determination, sacrifice, and spirit displayed by the people ever since the program began, next week I will represent the Nicaraguan Government in Paris at the third and final meeting of the consultative group headed by the World Bank. It will be attended by 15 to 20 countries that would like to help Nicaragua make its delayed payments. I am absolutely confident that next week the international community will respond to Nicaragua because the effort that all of the Nicaraguan people have made is already known in each of these countries. Nicaragua is even beginning to be admired, and I am absolutely sure this admiration will garner the international community's support and enable us to solve our delayed payments problem.

What will happen then? At some point in the next three or four months Nicaragua may be able to materially make the delayed payments that it had and still has with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. This will allow us—for the first time in many years—to acquire fresh credits, soft credits from those two institutions. These credits will allow us in 1992 to

initiate the country's economic take-off, which will basically depend on the stabilization program's success; our on-going sacrifices and efforts; our respect for the law; and our united and harmonious effort, which in turn will depend on the resources that we receive from the international community.

Our job as a government is to ensure that prices remain fair and to ensure that the laws that are needed for this program's progress—such as bank laws, foreign investment laws, foreign trade laws, and privatization laws—can be gradually examined and approved by the new deputies at the National Assembly. The government's job, basically, is to ensure that the program can enjoy the success that we all wanted it to have when it was initiated on 3 March.

Panama

Column Reports on Drug Trafficking Activities

PA1005020491 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 May 91 p 5

[From the "Leaks and Tips" column]

[Text]

Message to the DEA

In this city there is an apartment building loaded with Colombian hired killers and drug traffickers who roam through the building's halls carrying their submachineguns, which they put in bags whenever they leave the building. The Panamanian authorities are doing nothing about this scandalous situation. The apartment building is very much linked to a bank that was closed by the Panamanian authorities under orders from U.S. authorities. We are certain that drug trafficking activities, at least those connected to Medellin, are managed from there.

The 12 Millions of Gacha

EL SIGLO has learned that the 12 million [no currency specified] that belonged to Rodriguez Gacha—the Colombian drug trafficking boss shot to death by the Colombian Army—was brought to Panama by a man called Canle. This money was impounded in the vaults of the Interbanco when it was closed by the banking commission. When the 12 million arrived, Rodrigo Gacha was alive. He was killed shortly afterward and somebody tried to take, or actually took, the 12 million (it cannot be found). Some time after the death of Rodriguez Gacha, Canle traveled to Medellin where he died mysteriously in his hotel room from a bullet in his forehead.

The 12 Millions of Gacha II

It is believed that Canle's death has to do with the 12 million and how it was lost. What was Canle doing in Medellin? He used to travel to Colombia often. The authorities believe that the purpose of his trips was to bring cash to Panama for operations, especially for operations involving a hotel. Reports that Canle was a courier of Rodriguez Gacha have yet to be confirmed. Canle and other people used to go to Medellin in private airplanes without going through customs or immigration offices in Colombia or Panama. Canle owned 50 percent of the shares of a well-known Panama City apartment building. This was inherited by his widow, Maria Helena Gaviria de Canle.

More Information

We have more information. For example, we have come across the name of Jose Pando. However, he is the legal manager of the Soloy Hotel and the person who manages all the hotel business. Who is Cursino Garcia? and who is Maria Nieves Fernandez de Garcia? and who is Fonseca, who was given a 35,000-balboa pick-up truck approximately five months ago? It has been said that Fonseca manages all the personal businesses of Luis [not further identified]. Fonseca is listed in the public registry as the attorney of several Colombian drug trafficking societies.

But There Is More

We are getting close to securing evidence that Manuel Antonio Noriega was also an Interbanco shareholder and that he was represented by one of the managers of that bank who, apparently, has kept Noriega's shares for himself. There is also Dr. Menalco Solis, who still has private offices in the bank building. Do you know who the presidents of Interoceanic Trust and Interoceanic Investment are? Do you know to whom these telephone numbers belong, in Madrid: home: 633-0287; office 593-3602, 593-3752, 419-0280, and 419-0365; and in Gijon, 985-3438 and 05 and 08?

Do you know what Rio Seco Business Corporation, or Oriya S.A., or Mundo Belt S.A. are? We will continue providing information, even if the authorities do not.

The Domplin Apartment Building

Guess who does the advertising for the Plaza Apartment building. None other than the notorious morning program "El Canonero de Domplin," which is owned by Noriega followers Andres Vega and his employees Pepe Zamora and Antonio Dominguez, alias "The Bedouin." God gives them life and the devil gets them together. You remember the days when nobody could say a thing in this country because these radio blabbers would mock anyone opposed to the military? This is the Andres Vega who built transmission booths with equipment from the Civic Action Department of the evil Defense Forces. We have pictures and documents to prove this.

The Domplin Apartment Building II

Now, thanks to the stupidity of many of the men governing us and of powerful "civic" allies who hold important government positions, the radio program criticizes what the government does or fails to do and,

because of this, it receives subsidies from enterprises such as the Plaza apartment building, which belongs to opportunists who benefited from the Noriega dictatorship. The late Canle, who owned shares of El Panama Hotel, also owned 50 percent of the shares of the Plaza apartment building. The other 50 percent is owned by a society whose shares belong to the Fernandez Espina brothers. You get it...?

Argentina

Former Presidential Adviser Cleared of Charges

PY0905121491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0020 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 May (NA)—The government today ruled out former presidential adviser Emir Yoma's involvement in the alleged request for a bribe from the Swift-Armour company on the grounds that President Carlos Menem's brother-in-law "is not linked" to the case.

The government also said that Yoma's name was reported to the public by the then Legal and Technical Secretary Raul Granillo Ocampo, who later admitted to former Treasury Auditor General Jorge Maiorano that Emir "at no time made any request."

This conclusion is included in the final report on the case, which was drawn up by current Treasury Auditor General Alberto Garcia Lema. The report, which was submitted to Menem on 2 May, was made public today.

In the report, however, the government admits that Guillermo Nielsen, the director of strategic planning and institutional relations of the Swift-Armour company, "was visited by a lobbyist or by an influential person." The report makes clear that "there is no evidence that this person was a public servant."

According to the report, the meeting between Nielsen and the person who identified himself as "Dr. Fernandez," took place in August 1990 at the company facilities, however, "no evidence has been made available" on the meeting.

The government report states that after "informing company authorities," and in view of the fact that such authorities did not provide for "the formal consideration of the issue by company organs," Nielsen met with U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman to "request the embassy cooperation to get things moving."

The report criticizes the enterprise for "considering it unnecessary to report the case to judicial or administrative organs."

Now that Emir Yoma'a involvement in the case has been ruled out, the report says that the then Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez said that Yoma "did not have access to the case folder and did not ask for any documents."

The government report contradicts the objections that Federal Judge Miguel Pons, who investigated the case, began the administrative inquest on orders of President Menem. The report says that this measure "is a constitutional presidential power," adding that "the investigation did not seek to overstep any jurisdictions but, on the contrary, to cooperate." The report adds that "proof of this is the constant cooperation with the courts."

The government said that the inquest is "the most tangible proof of its unyielding determination to clarify the irregularities that might have occurred within its jurisdiction."

The government also decided to send to the court the composite picture of the "lobbyist or influential person," which "could bring about the reopening of the trial."

Sale of Subsidized Meat To Brazil Denounced

PY0905182691 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The Argentine Government has demanded that the EEC pay compensation for the damage caused by the sale to Brazil of 100,000 tons of meat at a subsidized price.

Alieto Guadagni, under secretary of production for defense, who is in charge of technical planning, said that this measure will seriously damage the Argentine meat industry.

Bolivia

Government Wants U.S. Tin Sales Suspended

PY0905122491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0004 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] La Paz, 8 May (EFE)—Bolivian Mining and Metallurgy Minister Walter Soriano Lea Plaza reported today that Bolivia will ask the United States to suspend the sales of its strategic tin reserves and thus prevent a drop in international tin prices.

Soriano said the request will be submitted to the White House by Bolivian Ambassador to Washington Jorge Crespo-Velasco.

On 2 July 1990, the U.S. Administration authorized an increase in its annual sales of up to 7,000 metric tons of tin, which were part of its strategic reserves, but noted that it did not expect to reach that amount.

This measure was then harshly criticized by Bolivia, the sixth largest producer of tin in the world, and by other members of the Tin Producing Countries Association (APPE), because of the immediate impact on international prices. The minister said that this Bolivian request is supported by the APPE, "so that our clamor may be heard."

The sale of 7,000 metric tons of the U.S. tin reserves represent 3.6 percent of the world demand for tin, which is estimated at 190,000 metric tons.

Until 1989, tin was the main Bolivian mineral. Because of the drop in international prices it was replaced by zinc, after being one of the pillars of the national economy for almost a century. Tin exports last year provided Bolivia with an income of $106.3 million, 12.81 percent of its overall foreign sales.

Some 10 years ago, a fine pound of tin on the international metal market of London was worth $7.60; today its price is $2.61, following a sudden decline that began in 1985.

Bolivian officials claim that a minimum price of $3.30 per fine pound is needed to make tin exploitation profitable in all its mines.

Armed Forces To Guarantee Free Travel Nationwide

PY1005012091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] In accordance with the law, the Armed Forces will act to defend the people, who have the right to move freely throughout the country.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] The position of the Armed Forces was made known through a military communique which warns about the illegality of blocking public roads. The communique says:

The high military command, with the formality and seriousness of its mission, has often reaffirmed its respect for all honest activities in the agrarian sector dedicated to traditional coca production, based on strict compliance with the freedom to work, a right guaranteed by the Constitution.

In exercising their duties, the Armed Forces are obligated to guarantee the unrestricted freedom provided by law without exception or preference. They must therefore assist the actions of the appropriate organizations to prevent any attempt to create disorder through the blocking of roads, which may affect the normal circulation of travelers and supplies.

The Armed Forces call on everyone to eliminate attitudes incompatible with or contrary to the state of law because their effects could cause serious harm to the community. If events that disturb public tranquility do occur, the Armed Forces, in compliance with the laws of the Republic, will act to defend the people who have the legitimate right to move throughout the national territory. [end recording]

Brazil

New Economic Minister To Be Installed 10 May

PY0905133291 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 May 91

[Excerpt] The new Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira will be installed at 1100 tomorrow during a ceremony to be held at Planalto Palace. Shortly afterwards he will assume his post at the Economy Ministry. Zelia Cardoso de Mello was in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. At 2000 she returned to Brasilia and went directly to the Planalto Palace where she met with President Fernando Collor.

Zelia Cardoso de Mello's resignation was announced by Justice Minister Jarbas Pasarinho at the Planalto Palace. He also announced that President Collor had decided to appoint Ambassador Marcilio Marques Moreira as the new economy minister.

Presidential Spokesman Claudio Humberto said that it is up to President Collor to make decisions on the economic policy. He also said that the new minister will announce any change to be made in the economic team.

[Begin Claudio Humberto recording] It is up to President Collor to make decisions on the economic policy, but any changes will be make by the new minister. There is good excellent expectation because of the appropriate decision to appoint Marcilio Marques as the new minister. [end recording]

Claudio Humberto also said that Marcilio Marques Moreira is a great negotiator, adding that his personal background is linked to the economy. Therefore he rules out any possibility of destabilization or unrest on the financial market following his appointment.

He said that Marcilio Marques Moreira participated in the negotiations with creditor banks and with the IMF, and that he has closely followed all negotiations carried out by Brazil with international financial agencies.

According to Claudio Humberto, President Collor regretted the resignation of Zelia Cardoso de Mello because she was member of the economic team since the beginning of his presidential campaign. He also said that President Collor praised Zelia's efficient work of fighting inflation and said that she was an efficient collaborator. He added that they will continue to be friends.

Luis Eduardo de Assis, director of the Central Bank Monetary Policy Department said that all Zelia Cardoso de Mello's advisers who participated in the drafting of the economic plan will leave their posts.

Central Bank Chairman Ibrahim Eris, Economy Ministry Executive Secretary Joao Maia, and Bank of Brazil Chairman Alberto Policarpo have already said that they will submit their resignations. They met twice on the night of 7 May with Minister Zelia, first at the Economy Ministry and then at Zelia's home, on the 112th Super Block in the southern wing of Brasilia. Also attending the meeting were Infrastructure Minister Eduardo Teixeira, Secretary of Federal Administration Joao Santana, who have not confirmed whether they will leave their posts, Economic Policy Secretary Antonio Kandir, and Economic Ministry Special Adviser Francisco Goncalves, who also participated in the drafting of economic plan. [passage omitted]

Infrastructure Minister Teixeira Resigns

PY0905192491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1832 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Brasilia, 9 May (EFE)—The Brazilian television network O Globo reported today that Infrastructure Minister Eduardo Teixeira, one of the closest aides of former

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso, submitted his resignation to President Fernando Collor de Mello today.

Although the reasons for Teixeira's resignation were not officially given, political circles believe that he may have resigned in solidarity with Zelia Cardoso who resigned as economy minister yesterday.

Last week, Teixeira was considered the man who could become the economy minister had Minister Cardozo resigned.

O Globo said that President Collor accepted Teixeira's resignation and that Administration Secretary Joao Santana has replaced Teixeira.

Santana To Continue Programs

PY1005023891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] New Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana has said that he will continue the program of state stability and modernization advocated by President Collor.

[Begin Santana recording] This program is (?correct). It is a program striving for stability, the stabilization and modernization of the Brazilian state, and I am sure that we will make every effort to achieve these goals.

New people are obviously entering the government and they have different personalities, their own ways of conducting business. Everyone has a personality that influences his or her actions.

Nevertheless, I do not believe that there will be, and I do not see any possibility of, a radical change or immediate, deep transformations in the program the government has been following in the economic field or in other actions at the various ministries. [end recording]

The announcement of the nomination of Secretary Joao Santana to head the Infrastructure Ministry to replace Eduardo Teixeira was made by Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho.

Minister Passarinho also announced the president of the Republic's decision to appoint Pedro Maranhao to temporarily head the Federal Administration Secretariat [SAF], replacing Joao Santana. SAF Assistant Secretary Pedro Maranhao will continue as chairman of the Social Security Inspection and Control Commission.

Foreign Debt Negotiator Jorio Dauster Resigns

PY1005004891 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] After an interview granted by new Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira to reporter Joelmir Beting, Foreign Debt Negotiator Jorio Dauster tendered his resignation.

Francisco Gross Named Central Bank President

PY1005003991 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Economist Francisco Gross has been named the new Central Bank president, replacing Ibrahim Eris. Francisco Gross served as Central Bank president for 78 days under the Sarney government. He resigned from his post when then Economy Minister Dilson Funaro also resigned.

New Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira introduced the new Central Bank president to the media today, but Gross did not give any interviews. A Rio de Janeiro citizen, Francisco Gross is an economist who attended Princeton and Columbia Universities in the United States.

In his professional life he has always worked for investment banks. He is the current director of the Fernandes Carneiro Bank of Rio de Janeiro.

Chile

Official Communique Authorizes Pinochet's Trip

PY0905180091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 May 91

[Report by Jose Francisco Contreras]

[Text] General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief, has been authorized to leave the country on behalf of the Army. According to the text of a Defense Ministry communique, however, he must return to the country before 5 July [as heard]. Here is the text of the communique:

The Army commander in chief has recently reported to the government that he was interested in visiting foreign military facilities and plants that have signed contracts with the Army.

In meetings held with the defense minister and his excellency the president of the Republic, the Army commander in chief explained the reasons for, and the objectives of, his trip. In view of the Army's interest in the trip, the Army commander in chief has been authorized to perform a mission abroad through a supreme decree of the National Defense Ministry. The decree authorizes him to remain abroad until 5 June. The officer who will act as Army commander in chief during his absence will be appointed in accordance with current laws.

Carabineros, Army Oppose Port Privatization

PY0905173891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 May 91

[Report by Victor Vaccaro from Valparaiso]

[Text] Those in favor of keeping the Iquique free port under government control have received the full support of the Carabineros and the Army. These two institutions

have conveyed to the Senate Economy Committee their opposition to the privatization of the zone, as established by Article 10 of Law 18846. The government has proposed revoking this article and the Chamber of Deputies has already voted on it.

The Carabineros position is explained in a confidential report that was handed to the Economy Committee, which is headed by National Renewal Senator Sebastian Pinera. According to reliable sources, the Carabineros advise against privatization of the Iquique free port because this would allow the laundering of money obtained through drug trafficking.

The Army command has informed the committee members that it is concerned about the effect of the governmental decision to sell most of the Iquique free port shares that the government still possesses in such a sensitive geopolitical region.

Confirming that the Army and Carabineros oppose the privatization of the Iquique free port, Senator Pinera—who supports the sale of the companies that still belong to the government—said:

[Begin Pinera recording] [Passage indistinct] I believe that we must prevent the people who may endanger the security of this strategic region or who are linked to illegal businesses, from entering the Iquique free port. It is very simple: The law must be enforced. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Colombia

Venezuela's Perez Addresses Constituent Assembly

PA0905160191 Caracas Venezolana de Television in Spanish 0004 GMT 8 May 91

[Excerpt][passage omitted] The visit of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to Colombia is particularly important because of the excellent relations between the two countries, several unidentified Colombian personalities have agreed. This afternoon, President Perez visited the Colombian National Constituent Assembly, where former M-19 [19 July Movement] guerrillas, liberals, conservatives, representatives of indigenous populations, and evangelicals share the very serious responsibility of reforming the entire Colombian system of government. The work carried out so far enjoys majority support, but several sectors have opposed it. Among other things, the Congress will be dissolved and the Supreme Court will be eliminated. This is President Perez speaking to the members of the Constituent Assembly.

[Begin Perez recording] We have suffered with you over your long history of violence. We rejoiced with you when we saw that, despite all difficulties, your people have continued to march onward unbent by the formidable circumstances through which we are passing. The drug trafficking problem has become an unspeakable burden for your people. This burden, however, is shared by virtually all of us, although not the Colombian people's grief. In the context of the subordinate light in which we are viewed in the great industrialized nations, Latin America is referred to as the place where drug trafficking originates to the detriment of the great nations of the world. [end recording]

Antonio Navarro Wolff, the most important Colombian personality at this time because of what he represents and his efforts to find peace, spoke exclusively for this station and described Perez as a champion of integration.

[Begin Navarro recording] This visit helps to build bridges. Current Colombian-Venezuelan relations are very good. We must expedite the process so that integration can take place as soon as possible as a step toward integration of the Andean region at a time when the Southern Cone Common Market is also in the process of being created. I believe that through these partial Latin American regional and subregional agreements we can have a clear idea of the Americas Initiative that President Bush has proposed for continental integration. [end recording]

Perez on Cuba's Reintegration

PA0905175591 Paris AFP in Spanish 2321 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 8 May (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez stated here today that "it is inconceivable that the Cold War still persists in Latin American and the Caribbean region." He came out in favor of Cuba and the United States becoming more flexible in their positions to permit the reintegration of Cuba into the region.

"I believe that Cuba's total integration is taking place, eliminating borders and toppling walls," he said. "I have confidence that President Fidel Castro of Cuba will view the situation with his characteristic audacity and understand that there must be a rapprochement and a definite solution to link Cuba to Latin America," President Perez added.

He said: "The United States must understand that the ideological confrontation has ended, that Cuba is not a piece mounted within the East-West world confrontation." "This circumstance will have to force a change in the position of the United States towards Cuba," he said, noting that the Organization of American States (OAS) must undergo modification. He said that the OAS "cannot continue to be the weak instrument without specific and clear objectives. It must be a political instrument for relations between the two regions: North and South. [no closing quotes as received]

Perez Concludes Visit

PA0905183591 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 91

[Recorded passages within quotation marks]

[Excerpts] The presidents of Venezuela and Colombia, Carlos Andres Perez and Cesar Gaviria, respectively,

today signed a joint declaration that includes three agreements, one on an open skies policy, another on oil cooperation, and a third on tourism. They also agreed to initiate negotiations for judicial cooperation so that drug trafficking related crimes do not go unpunished.

These agreements were signed at the end of a 48-hour official visit by President Perez to Colombia. These agreements have been the culmination of two days of intense activities by the Venezuelan president in Bogota. The visit has been viewed by various sectors as very fruitful. Much progress was made in favor of the definite integration of Venezuela and Colombia.

The declaration encompasses the work of Colombian and Venezuelan delegations headed by the economy ministers of the two nations. The declaration evaluates the world situation, as well as bilateral matters.

President Perez and President Gaviria were clear in telling newsmen that this document is an expression of two nations that want to break the barriers that have separated them in some aspects, two nations that must work together to seek the integration of all of Latin America.

They announced that they are going to make efforts in Latin America, especially with regard to Chile and other South American countries, to secure this Latin American unity. With regard to agreements, one of the most important declared an open skies policy. The terms of this agreement were signed by the transportation and communications ministers of the two countries.

[Unidentified speaker] "The most important aspect of this agreement is the license that Venezuelan and Colombian air transportation enterprises will have to carry passengers, cargo, and mail within the two countries without restriction. This means that in the future, the air transport network operations between the two countries will significantly increase."

Important agreements were reached in oil matters, as well. Colombia is rapidly marching toward the production of oil. It will continue to receive advice in this field from our country.

[Unidentified speaker] "Much progress has been made with regard to integration by our two countries in the energy field during the Perez administration, since the days when we signed the cooperation agreement in March 1989. The electric connection program linking Venezuela and Colombia has made much progress. [passage omitted]

This has been, perhaps, the most intense tour carried out by President Perez. At the Fairs Corporation he dedicated the Fourth International Book Fair. After touring several pavilions, the Venezuelan chief of state stopped at the Spanish, Mexican, and Venezuelan pavilions. He met with Colombia's most important newspaper directors and chief editors. At Skandia, he was decorated with the Merit to Colombian-Venezuelan Integration Order, which was awarded by the Chamber of Integration of the two countries. The president of this chamber is Dr. Alberto Galofre. President Perez installed the seminar: Structural Reforms of the Venezuelan Economy. The integration issue was again the main topic of the president's speech. President Perez was accompanied by the economy minister of Venezuela.

After his speech, the president spoke to newsmen.

[Reporter] "How are you going to withstand Venezuelan and Colombian criticism in connection with this process?

[Perez] "With patience. There is no other way.

[Reporter] "What are the main obstacles at this moment?

[Perez] "The main obstacles are situations that have been created, created interests, and the difficulty in making the people accept big and sudden changes. This is inevitable. This is how mankind has been from the beginning.

[Reporter] "The differences between the two countries are no longer an obstacle?

[Perez] "They have ceased being an obstacle because we are studying all the problems, including the so-called gulf differences, between the two countries to find a general solution.

[Reporter] "There will be no barbed wire along the border, as you have said?

[Perez] "We must pull down the barbed wire." [passage omitted]

Guerrillas Release Seven Detained Journalists

PA0905154091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1420 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 9 May (EFE)—Colombian authorities reported today that the seven Colombian journalists who had been detained by a column of the Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Board (CNG) on 6 May have been released. The journalists were held at an Atlantic coast rebel camp for three days.

The journalists, correspondents of several domestic media organizations in the city of Sincelejo in Cordoba Department, had been called by the CNG rebels to attend a news conference in which they were to give their position with regard to the possibility of holding talks with the government.

EL ESPECTADOR correspondent Ramiro Guzman revealed that the group of journalists had been released near Cartagena de Indias. He said that the guerrillas had called the journalists separately and asked them to meet them in different parts of Sincelejo. Once they had them all together, they were placed in a taxi in which they rode for two hours, then they walked for four hours to a rebel area.

Among the journalists also detained were: Rafael Puello of "Emisoras Caracol," Neira Pitalua of "Noticiero TV Hoy," Rafael Chica of "Noticiero Cinevision," Luis Carlos Botero of "Noticiero Mediodia," and two cameramen.

The CNG consists of the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the National Liberation Army, and a dissident group of the Popular Liberation Army.

The CNG is waiting to start direct talks with the government of President Cesar Gaviria, which will probably be held next week.

Arrest of Extraditable in Barranquilla Reported

PA0905133591 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1230 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Extraditable Manuel Salvador Yepes was arrested in Barranquilla during a police operation in that city. He will be transferred to Bogota within the next few hours.

His extradition has been requested by the United States.

Paraguay

Businessman Said Misusing Military Uniforms

PY0905161891 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 9 May 91 p 15

[Text] The office of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces yesterday confirmed that Agustin Urunaga, a "businessman" of Ciudad del Este, has been held at the Presidential Guard facilities under preventive arrest since 7 May, on orders from a military judge. Urunaga is charged with illegal use of military uniforms by his personnel.

A communique issued by the high command, signed by Colonel Julio Cesar Mezgolits—chief of Public Relations and of military protocol— stated that the military judge who hears the case "is continuing the investigations in order to clarify the case."

The communique concludes by saying that Urunaga "is being held at the Presidential Guard facilities."

The arrest of the notorious "businessman" of the capital of Alto Parana took place a few days after leaders of the "Rafael Franco" multi sector organization—of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party—reported to the courts that Urunaga was illegally providing military uniforms to his personnel, who were also equipped with military weapons. The executive branch a few weeks ago closed an airstrip owned by Urunaga on the outskirts of Ciudad del Este. The airstrip was apparently used for illegal purposes.

However, a military commander had said that if there were any measures to be adopted, the decision would be made by higher authorities, which in this case are the commander in chief or the Supreme Military Tribunal.

President Andres Rodriguez has said that airstrips owned by Urunaga and Barreto Sarubbi were illegally operating because they allowed the landing of foreign registered planes. He added that the airstrips are legal, however, because they are registered with the National Directorate of Civil Aviation (Dinac) [Direccion Nacional de Aeronautica Civil]. This situation could aggravate the case.

Peru

Poll Shows Increased Popularity for Fujimori

PY0905034491 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 30 Apr 91 p A-5

[Summary] The popularity of President Alberto Fujimori increased 16 percent from March to April. According to the latest poll carried out by Datum S.A. in the Lima metropolitan area, over half the people polled approved of the president's work.

It is quite likely that Fujimori's popularity level has been boosted by the important negotiations and the speech he delivered at the annual Inter-American Development Bank governors conference in Nagoya to seek the reinsertion of Peru into the international financial community as well as his announcement that he will personally head the struggle against terrorism and the pacification of the country.

The popularity of Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara has also increased. The prime minister received the support of 37 percent of those polled, up 9 percent from the previous month.

It is Economy Minister Carlos Bolona who received the highest approval rating among ministers. He was supported by 49 percent of those polled, a 22- percent increase since the last month. The popularity of Health Minister Victor Yamamoto, however, dropped 29 percent. Of those polled, 54 percent said they disapproved of his work.

President Fujimori Assesses Visit To Mexico

PY0905184891 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 9 May 91

[Excerpts] President Alberto Fujimori has concluded his official visit to Mexico with the signing of important bilateral agreements on the oil field and the antidrug struggle.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, the country is eager to know the results of your visit to Mexico. Have you achieved your objectives?

[Fujimori] I hope that the public has evaluated what has been done through mass media reports. First, the forum held in Guadalajara was very important because it was an opportunity to transmit Peru's image. I think that the significant and moving applause of those attending the forum was the response to our position. We can also

describe as positive the meetings we held with our Mexican counterparts on the several matters discussed. For example, the Mexican financial agencies and (?Mexpetrol) have decided to actively cooperate with Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency] in financing and prospecting for oil deposits in Chambira and in another places. A major fund will be allocated to this project. I hope that a contract between the two enterprises will be signed soon. The Mexican Government supports this negotiation.

[Reporter] How big will the investment be?

[Fujimori] Some $43 million will be allocated for the Chambira project, while other minor funds will be set aside for other projects. About $53 million will be earmarked for all these projects. Another important achievement is that the Mexican Government has expressed its decision to join the Support Group, which as you all know, is an important step toward Peru rejoining the international system. We have not mentioned specific funds because they must be set at a coordination meeting led by the United States. However, Mexico has already made a political decision. Venezuela and Colombia have already decided that they will contribute to the initiative. Consequently three major Latin American countries will support Peru.

[Reporter] When will this Support Group be created?

[Fujimori] This will depend on the call to be made by the office of the U.S. deputy secretary of commerce [Sub Secretaria de Economia de los Estados Unidos]. We hope that a decision will be made soon.

[Reporter] We also learned that important progress was made on the matter related to drug trafficking during your visit.

[Fujimori] Yes, a bilateral agreement on drug trafficking was signed. Obviously, the most important agreement is the one to be signed with the United States. Mexico has also joined this struggle against drug trafficking, but not necessarily within the framework of the agreement to be signed with the United States.

[Reporter] Mr. President, the agreements you signed during your 4-day official visit to Mexico are undoubtedly important. The support of 500 foreign businessmen clearly reveals the possibility of new investments in our country. During news conferences held in Mexico, both local and foreign businessmen stressed the measures you are adopting that will allow access to a more ample field and a more positive situation for our country. How will this affect the creation of new taxes and Peruvian imports within one year?

[Fujimori] I must say that major investments will only be made if Peru joins the international system. If this objective is not met it will be difficult for foreign investors to come to Peru because their investments will not be appropriately guaranteed. The possibility of Peru rejoining the international system is almost a reality. There are some prior steps to be made before foreign investors dare to come to Peru. Internal security obviously must be guaranteed, and local businessmen must set an example. They have to take the first step so that foreigners can invest in Peru. I think that the first step is being taken because local businessmen are thrusting the economic measures being implemented by my government. They had to come to Guadalajara to convince themselves that the international business sector greatly supports Peru. I believe this fact was important for our delegation.

[Reporter] During the several meetings you held, you said that our countries' integration is an effective way to overcome underdevelopment. What was the reaction to this proposal?

[Fujimori] This position received a very favorable response. We want to say that we have joined the Pacific Basin Group within a regional scheme with North America, but we need Latin American integration first, and then adopt a more sound position in our negotiations with the other great blocs. I think that this position has great support and it is being promoted through some subregional agreements such as the Andean Pact, the creation of a free trade zone beginning 1 January 1992—which is an important step along with the future creation of the Andean Common Market—and the creation of the Common Market of the South. This means that subregional groups are being created and that they can jointly become a great Latin American block that may counterbalance the economic power of other blocs. This way we will no longer be just a satellite of industrialized countries, but their partners to confront new developments in the 21st century. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Yesterday at noon President Fujimori was welcomed at the Chapultepec City Hall. A ceremony was held at the Kings Hall, where he was declared as illustrious guest. Manuel Camacho Solis, head of Federal District Department, delivered to Fujimori a parchment and the keys of the city.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] As I expressed to His Excellency President Salinas de Gortari, I also convey to the president of the Federal Department, I am very satisfied with the results of my trip. I submitted the message of my country to the Pacific Basin organization that is in the making. We have strengthened the traditionally good relations between Mexico and Peru. We have received the appreciation of the Mexican people. I thanked the authorities for the award I received from the Guadalajara University and for the decision to declare me an illustrious guest of Guadalajara, a city which I have always admired. I wholeheartedly thank you for these awards. [end recording] [applause] [passage omitted]

Shining Path Attacks in Ayacucho Injure 10

PY1005002091 Madrid EFE in English 2156 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Ayacucho, Peru, May 9 (EFE)—Leftist Peruvian rebels have injured 10 people over the past 24 hours in separate attacks in the Andean city of Ayacucho, authorities said Thursday [9 May].

They said Maoist "Shining Path" guerrillas Wednesday fired grenades into a restaurant injuring four people, and set off an explosion in the bar of a hotel, wounding four more. A regional assembly attended by 84 delegates was taking place at the hotel at the time of the attack, the authorities said. Two other people were wounded following a shootout between the rebels and security forces.

Shining Path also blew up five electricity pylons, leaving Ayacucho without electricity, the sources said. Another rebel bomb blast destroyed the offices of an important irrigation project, they said.

Meanwhile, police said they had arrested some 300 suspected Shining Path members following the attacks. Ayacucho is the capital of the southern department of the same name, where the Shining Path has been most active since taking up arms in 1980. More than 22,000 people have been killed in Peru since Shining Path and the smaller Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebel group, which emerged in 1984, began their armed insurgencies.

Uruguay

President Lacalle Suggests Electoral Reform

PY0905163891 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] President Luis Alberto Lacalle last night said he favors a constitutional amendment that will allow people to vote for a candidate rather than for a party [as opposed to the Lema system]. The president also said that the most important concerns of his administration regarding the Common Market of the South [Mercosur] are the trade tarrifs, the coordination of macroeconomic policies, and especially, the hyperinflation process in Argentina and Brazil.

Lacalle said this while dedicating the new offices of the Association of Advertising Companies. He said he favors a transformation of the administration which, without doubt, should lead to the restructuring of the electoral system and, consequently, the Constitution because if the people—regardless of political parties—are either for or against a voting system, a method or means should be sought to allow people to vote for a candidate rather than for a party.

The president said he is worried about the Mercosur foreign trade tariff because if it is set too high, Uruguay will be subjugated to the powers of the system; in our case to Brazil. He added that on 30 December 1995, Uruguay will have the chance to decide whether or not to join the Mercosur.

The president also said that Uruguay hopes to become the Brussels of South America, that is, the seat of the Mercosur executive council, whose presidents will meet in Uruguay on 7 October.

Lacalle said that monopolies will be dissolved when they are forced to compete with their Argentine, Brazilian, and Paraguayan partners and [words indistinct] businessmen although many know that it will be the end of their enterprises [words indistinct] of this sector of the Mercosur. The president praised Juan Manuel Rodriguez, economist of the PIT-CNT [Interunion Workers Assembly- National Convention of Workers] for his contribution and ideas on the subject.

Lacalle added that the Aladi [Latin American Integration Association] will begin to loose its power within Latin America. We must earn a lot of money, he said, adding that it is much better to be rich and healthy than poor and sick.

Venezuela

Minister Says Perez Visit to U.S. 'Satisfactory'

PA1005024691 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Armando Duran has termed President Carlos Andres Perez' visit to the United States as satisfactory. He said that the president had a positive meeting with U.S. President George Bush, with whom he discussed the Central American situation and the trade agreement between Venezuela and the United States.

The Venezuelan foreign minister said that President Bush ordered the prompt signature of this bilateral agreement that grants Venezuelan products a preferential place in northern markets.

He added that during his meeting with President Bush, President Perez said that a meeting with oil producer and consumer countries will be held between 3 and 8 June. President Perez added that he understands the U.S. position concerning this issue, but this does not prevent a U.S. representative from attending the meeting.

Referring to a free trade zone between North and South America, the foreign minister said that this is not a short-term goal, adding that the subregional development process must be stepped up. To prove that the activity has begun, Andean Group member countries will eliminate their tariffs by 31 December 1991.

Talking about the commercial reforms and adjustment programs that are being implemented in almost all the

Latin American countries' economies, the foreign minister said that the level of competitiveness will be raised to face the 1990's challenge of creating a free trade zone as the only alternative.

[Begin Duran recording] This process facilitates and hastens the integration process, which has been a rhetorical issue and remained inactive for many years. Therefore, all the changes that currently occur in the world's economy—this is precisely what encouraged President Bush to present his Americas Initiative—will also encourage us to embark on these integration processes in the near future. These processes are not an option; they are absolutely and unavoidably necessary. [end recording]

Guyana

Carter Praises Hoyte on Election Reforms

FL0905131591 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has written Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte on the result of a recent visit by a team from the Carter Center to Guyana. The team was looking into preparations for upcoming elections. Mr. Carter's letter praised the Guyanese leader for taking steps to make those elections free and fair. The team said Mr. Hoyte's decision to make new appointments to the elections commission was a positive move.

Further on Carter Approval

FL0905235991 Bridgetown CANA in English 2238 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 9, CANA—Guyana's political reform process, now moving towards a new elections commission and voters' register, has won a nod of approval from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte received a letter from the former U.S. president expressing admiration for the flexibility and wisdom in Hoyte's approach to holding free and fair elections, the state information agency said.

The Jimmy Carter Centre of the U.S. Emory University has accepted a government invitation to monitor elections here after persistent opposition claims from the opposition of irregularities in past polls.

Carter's letter followed a report on the registration process by Belize Prime Minister George Price, who as vice-chairman of the Council of Freely-Elected Heads of Government visited Guyana on behalf of the Carter Centre to observe the voter registration process.

A team from the Commonwealth Secretariat, the other officially invited observers, also completed an advance mission in the past two weeks to observe the registration exercise. The registration was started after an earlier voters' list was found to contain numerous errors. Government introduced a constitutional amendment to postpone elections to year-end at the latest to allow time for the registration exercise.

While here, Price also spurred exchanges between Hoyte and the opposition which resulted in agreement on conditions for changing the chairman of the elections commission and to expand its membership. The four-party opposition alliance, the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD), has issued a statement welcoming the appointment of Rudy Collins as the new elections commission chairman. The alliance statement followed a furor over remarks directed at Collins by an alliance member. PCD Secretary Gail Texeira said remarks by Paul Tennassee, leader of the PCD affiliated Democratic Labour Movement (DLM), were unfortunate.

Tennassee had said it was a "calculated risk" for the PCD to have Collins, a former ambassador appointed elections commission chairman. Colins was one of a list of nominees submitted by the PCD in the arrangement initiated by Price. Collins is to head an expanded commission, comprising two nominees each of the governing and opposition representatives. The Commonwealth team here earlier this month suggested that legislative steps be taken to allow the expanded commission to be named and installed this month.

Meanwhile, with the May 17 deadline for the voter registration exercise nearing, the Guard Pressure Group has called for registration centres be opened for 12 hours on each of the next two Sundays to allow political parties, church groups, and others to mobilise more persons to be registered. But commissioner of registration Ronald Jacobs said more than 300 extra registration centres to back-up house to house enumeration have been set up with the approval of the elections commission. Enumerators have in cases already finished their areas, he said.

Compilation of the new voters' list based on the current registration exercise could be completed by August, after which President Hoyte is expected to prorogue Parliament and name an election date.

Opposition Welcomes Elections Commission Chairman

FL0905191491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1506 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 9, CANA—The four-party opposition alliance, Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD), has issued a statement welcoming the appointment of Rudy Collins as the new Elections Commission chairman.

The welcome follows a furor over some uncomplimentary remarks directed at the new chairman by a PCD member party. PCD secretary Gail Texeira said that the remarks made about Collins by Paul Tennassee, leader of the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM), was unfortunate and said that the issue has been settled.

Tennasee had described the former Guyana ambassador as a representative of the ruling People's National Congress and criticised the appointment as a 'calculated risk.' The PNC blasted Tennassee as 'unprincipled' and said that the attack on Collins was an unforgivable breach of the undertaking between President Desmond Hoyte and the PCD.

The new appointment followed the government's acceptance of a proposal by Belize Prime Minister George Price that it accepts a nominee from a list submitted by the opposition. Price and an observer team of the Council of Freely-Elected Heads of Government were here in April to witness the voter registration process.

DLM vice president, Oswell Legall, released a statement describing Tennassee's remarks as 'unfortunate.' Legall promised the full support of the party and said that the DLM welcomed the new appointee.